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"This matter extends well beyond a municipality's ability to adopt and enforce automatic traffic enforcement programs," the Dayton and OML filing states. "If the Second District's decision stands, it would give the General Assembly authority to legislatively eliminate constitutionally-provided home rule powers, specifically, those powers that are purely local."

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After NEOCH Decision, Seitz Suggests Lawmakers Implement Photo ID Requirements For Voting

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One of the provision struck down required voters accurately complete all five fields on the provisional ballot affirmation and absentee identification envelope before their ballots could be counted, which Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview were for identification purposes.

Since that has been deemed unconstitutional, Sen. Seitz said lawmakers may have no choice but to go the voter ID route.

"This constant meddling in our state election laws ultimately means that you have to resort to something the Supreme Court has already blessed," he said. "I suppose you leave us no choice but to go the photo ID route."

Sen. Seitz said the identification measure struck down was designed to prevent voter fraud. He said the federal government refuses to tell the secretary of state's office if a Social Security number corresponds to an illegal alien.

"We have precious little protection against voting by illegal aliens," he said.

But Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) said requiring state-issued IDs to cast ballots will be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

"This is more bluster and bullying of Ohio's voters from Senator Seitz, who has been deeply involved with most of the anti-voter legislation that the courts have thrown out over the last several years," she said. "Photo-only voter ID legislation is wrong for Ohio. It's not necessary, it's discriminatory, and it would cost the state and voters millions of dollars to implement."

U.S. District Court Judge Algenon L. Marbley's ruling, which struck down two other provisions in election-related legislation passed during the previous General Assembly, is being appealed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016)

Along with throwing out the provisional ballot requirements, the judge delivered a harsh critique of voting law trends in Ohio over the last several years, saying "the Republican-controlled General Assembly's frenetic pace of introducing such legislation reflects questionable motives, given the wealth of other problems facing the state which actually needed solutions."

"If the dog whistles in the General Assembly continue to get louder, courts considering future challenges to voting restrictions in Ohio may very well find that intentional discrimination is afoot," he wrote.

Sen. Setiz, however, said he and his colleague do not have any intention to put a moratorium on election-related legislation.

"Please be assured we are not going to be delinquent in doing our duty to the people of Ohio," he said.

He also denied there was a racial motivation behind the legislation, noting that another federal court judge found the provision to be constitutional.

"This is just another example of the double-standard that activist judges who might be better suited to be legislators are following in their zeal to do the will of the Ohio Democratic Party," he said.

Josh Eck, spokesman for Secretary of State Jon Husted, said the appeals process should be allowed to play out.

"Secretary Husted certainly understands Senator Seitz's frustration with the federal court's intrusion into Ohio's elections, which is why he has appealed the ruling," he said. "Once the appeal is decided and the 2016 election is over, we can calmly assess what law changes will be necessary to ensure a balance in our election system where it is both easy to vote and hard to cheat."

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on Judge Marbley's ruling and railed again voting "laws passed by an ultra-conservative state legislature in Columbus."

"We're the only advanced democracy in the world where there's actually efforts to restrict access to the ballot box," he said.

A voter ID bill has already been introduced this General Assembly. The measure (HB 189), put forth by Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell), has yet to receive a committee hearing.

Legislation Aligns Health Assessments For Hospitals, Public Health Districts In Effort To Improve Population Health Planning

Nonprofit hospitals and local health districts will have to complete health assessments along the same three-year cycles starting next year, according to legislation signed recently by Gov. John Kasich.

The requirement was part of a broader budget update bill (HB 390) the governor signed Tuesday. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 28, 2016)

Aligning the assessment periods is designed to make it easier for hospitals and their local public health officials to work together on setting priorities, according to the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

Hospitals have already been conducting their health assessments in three-year cycles, but local health districts have been doing so on five-year cycles. The change eliminates one of the barriers to cooperation between hospitals and local health districts, said Beth Bickford, executive director of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners.

"The whole idea is to encourage hospitals and local health departments, both of which have requirements in this regard, to try to work more closely together and to get their planning aligned so hopefully they can feed off each other's work and get some synergy in communities to achieve their health outcomes," she said in an interview.

"It is a bit of a daunting task to completely solve the problem, but I think this effort to set the three-year interval is an effort to try to at least align things from a timing perspective," she added.

There are other hurdles that hinder cooperation, she said, including geography. Hospitals and health districts don't always serve the same areas.

John Palmer, a spokesman for the Ohio Hospital Association, said hospitals already work with health districts on community health assessments, but the change will make that cooperation even easier.

"This new provision will strengthen involvement and support collaboration for our members and their partners that will benefit Ohioans and our communities," he said in an email.

One concern for local public health officials is the added cost and effort of producing the assessments every three years as opposed to every five, Ms. Bickford said.

"They're concerned about taxing their community partners with a process that is a time investment," she said. "There's a fair amount of concern about the extra time, money and asking others to commit their time as well to have it done more frequently."

The assessments look at a number of health factors affecting their communities, including rates of smoking, chronic conditions, risk factors and infectious diseases, Ms. Bickford said. Getting better information and coordinating efforts more will improve the picture health officials have of their communities' concerns.

"We can do a better job of seeing whether or not we're moving the needle on some of these health indicators," she said.

The change is also part of a broader state goal of aligning health assessments and planning to affect overall population health outcomes, according to a presentation by OHT. That broader goal includes a state health assessment, a draft of which was released last week (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2016), and a state health improvement plan slated for the fall.

Ohio's Competitive Marketplace Driving Lower-Than-Average Policy Rates, Insurance Leaders Say

Ohio's insurance marketplace is among the largest in the country and a plethora of companies call the state home - both factors that play a part in residents paying lower-than-average rates for casualty and property policies, according to the Department of Insurance.

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who also serves as director of ODI, pointed to a recently released 2015 market share report of state-licensed property and casualty groups as proof that Ohio's policies continue to drive low insurance rates and make the state a preferable place to do business

"We are focused on protecting consumers and fostering a competitive marketplace that is efficiently regulated," she said in a statement. "Positive results are being realized on multiple fronts."

There are nearly 1,000 property and casualty companies in the state's marketplace and about 140 of those are headquartered in Ohio, she said in an ODI release. State Farm, which is headquartered in Indiana, has the largest market share, holding 12.6% of all policies.

Meanwhile, Columbus-based Nationwide and Illinois-based Allstate are tied for second place at 6.7% and Progressive, which is headquartered in Mayfield, had the fourth largest market share, the report shows.

Dean Fadel, vice president of government relations for the Ohio Insurance Institute, said the market share report findings are "another demonstration of the competitive nature of the environment" that has been fostered in the state.

"We have the third most companies in the nation vying for Ohio consumers which is translated to us getting below national average rates on homeowners and auto insurance," he said in an interview. "I think when you factor in the urbanization and the traffic in Ohio, we arguably have the lowest rates in the nation."

"It's a marketplace where companies are allowed to compete, they're allowed to use within the regulatory schemes the most modernized ways of providing the product and we don't have a lot of insolvencies," Mr. Fadel added.

Ohio's average auto and homeowners premiums are \$515 below the national averages, according to a 2013 National Association of Insurance Commissioners analysis. Residents paid an average of \$763 for homeowners insurance and \$659 for auto insurance.

Employment opportunities have also been positively impacted by the state's thriving insurance industry, Ms. Taylor said.

Since 2011, she has led the charge to fill a projected 26,000 new insurance jobs by 2020 through an administration initiative called Insuring Ohio Futures. The effort includes partnerships between higher education institutions and industry leaders to create education and career pathways.

As a result, ODI reported that nine Ohio colleges and universities now offer insurance and risk management programs including bachelor, associate degrees short-term certification programs.

"We have been able to transform the landscape in just a few short years," Ms. Taylor said. "Educational programs exist that are ready to help Ohioans of all ages prepare for and claim good paying insurance jobs."

There are currently about 100,000 Ohioans working in the industry, earning the state the designation of having the seventh highest number of insurance employees in the country, according to an OII analysis. About one-third of those careers are in the property/casualty insurance field that the institute represents.

In total, more than 230 insurance companies in all segments of the industry call Ohio home, the institute reported.

Clinton To Open Ohio Campaign Offices, Leads Trump In Latest Fundraising Numbers

Hillary Clinton out fundraised opponent Donald Trump in the Buckeye State nearly eight-to-one for the month of May - even after the GOP field narrowed and the billionaire solidified himself as the last Republican standing.

Building on that momentum, Ms. Clinton's campaign announced Friday the campaign took in another \$40 million during June and said Tuesday that it will open 11 new offices across the state of Ohio in the coming week.

Those include offices in Cleveland, Toledo and Woodland, with phone banks to be established in Boardman, Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Hilliard and Trotwood. The campaign will also host a fundraiser in Lebanon and an organizing event in Delaware this week.

Mr. Trump's campaign, however, has been fairly quiet in Ohio, other than the recent hire of state campaign manager Bob Paduchik. The candidate visited the state for the first time post-primary last week. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

Gov. John Kasich withdrew from the race May 4, clearing the way for Mr. Trump to focus on fundraising and other general election prep rather than seizing delegates. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But the latest Federal Election Commission filings from each campaign show that Ms. Clinton, who for much of May was battling Sen. Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination, raised \$153,447.22 from Ohioans between May 1-31. During that same time period Mr. Trump raised \$18,722.89 in the state.

Released last week, the numbers already showed that Mr. Trump and Ms. Clinton trailed their primary opponents in fundraising from Ohio donors. Sen. Sanders for example raised \$158,768 in Ohio while Sen. Ted Cruz led the Republican side despite his May 3 withdrawal. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 21, 2016)

As both campaigns shift toward the general election, however, the numbers highlight the breadth of Ms. Clinton's fundraising infrastructure compared to that of Mr. Trump's. The candidates entered June - their first full month as the presumptive nominees of their respective parties - with \$42.46 million in cash on hand for the Clinton campaign and nearly \$1.29 million in cash on hand for the Trump campaign.

Of the 57 states or territories in which both candidates received donations in May, Ms. Clinton raised more money by far in all of those areas. Her filing shows the former secretary of state raised nearly \$15.04 million from 64 territories or states, while Mr. Trump raised \$1.01 million from 56 states or territories along with a \$250 donation from a foreign country.

Ms. Clinton even outperformed Mr. Trump in right-leaning states - such as Texas, in which Ms. Clinton hauled in \$1.4 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$122,251. In their home state of New York, where Ms. Clinton was a U.S. Senator, that trend continued with Ms. Clinton earning nearly \$1.87 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$52,697.

In Ohio, Mr. Trump received donations from 25 counties in May - the largest of which were \$5,150 from Franklin County and \$2,700 each from supporters in Lorain and Miami counties. By comparison, Ms. Clinton earned donors in 76 Ohio counties, with the largest donations coming from urban areas - including \$35,818 from Cuyahoga County, \$29,038 from Hamilton County, and \$27,499 from Franklin County.

In response, the Trump campaign launched a fundraising blitz last week leading up to the second quarter FEC filing deadline of June 30th.

The campaign set a goal of raising \$10 million by the deadline, with the candidate's son, Eric Trump, telling supporters via email, "The truth is we did better than \$11 million and no amount of spin from Crooked Hillary's machine can change that fact."

The Clinton campaign, meanwhile, claims to have raised more than \$40 million during the month of June, with an additional \$28 million raised for the Democratic National Committee and state parties.

"Our first month of general election fundraising proved to be the best of the campaign," Campaign Manager Robby Mook said in a statement. "Thanks to the continued support of nearly 1.6 million people, we have been able to help Democrats build out an organizing infrastructure across the country that will mobilize millions of voters and help elect progressive candidates up and down the ballot."

The campaigns' second quarter filings, due July 15, will further show whether that funding gap persists.

Part of the contrast so far is thanks to Mr. Trump's limited fundraising efforts during the primary season. Although the campaign has accepted donations since it launched last year, it has mostly subsisted on loans from Mr. Trump to the campaign. The June filing shows the campaign has received \$45.7 million in loans from or guaranteed by the candidate during the election cycle.

Gov. Kasich, meanwhile, continues to try to aid down-ballot Republicans, including ally U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

A Tuesday email from Kasich's suspended campaign - the second such missive in as many weeks from Kasich for America - highlighted several recent media reports showcasing "Kasich's efforts to help our party maintain the majority in the U.S. Senate and also about Gov. Kasich's ongoing popularity in national polls."

Politics Notebook: FBI Recommends No Charge Over Clinton Emails; ODP Blasts Latest Right-To Work Attempt; Advocates Press Kasich For Action On Hunger...

FBI Director James Comey said Tuesday he is recommending Hillary Clinton not be charged for her handling of classified information via a personal email server while serving as secretary of state.

Still, he strongly chastised the Democratic presumptive nominee and her staff for being "extremely careless" in her handling of sensitive information.

"Although we did not find clear evidence that Secretary Clinton or her colleagues intended to violate laws governing the handling of classified information, there is evidence that they were extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information."

Of the 30,000 emails provided by Ms. Clinton and the State Department in December 2014, the FBI determined 100 emails in 52 email chains contained classified information at the time they were sent or received. Eight of those contained information that was "Top Secret" when sent, 36 contained information that was marked "Secret," and eight contained "Confidential" information.

Director Comey said there were several examples of email communication regarding Top Secret/Special Access Program level information and that it is reasonable for a person in Ms. Clinton's position or her staff to "have known that an unclassified system was no place for that conversation."

Mr. Comey said his recommendation to the Department of Justice, which has the final determination on the matter, was based on a lack of willful intent to violate statute and was reached in "an entirely apolitical and professional way."

"In looking back at our investigations into mishandling or removal of classified information, we cannot find a case that would support bringing criminal charges on these facts," he said. "All the cases prosecuted involved some combination of: clearly intentional and willful mishandling of classified information; or vast quantities of materials exposed in such a way as to support an inference of intentional misconduct; or indications of disloyalty to the United States; or efforts to obstruct justice. We do not see those things here."

A Clinton spokesman said, "We are glad that this matter is now resolved," adding that Ms. Clinton has "long said it was a mistake to use her personal email and she would not do it again."

Republicans at all levels were quick to criticize the FBI's recommendation, with Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges calling the findings "a clear indictment on Hillary Clinton's lack of preparedness and judgment to be commander-in-chief."

"This wouldn't have been an issue had Hillary Clinton followed the law like everybody else and used a State Department account," Mr. Borges said. "Instead, Hillary Clinton set up an email system less secure than Gmail for herself to evade the rules because she didn't want people to know what she was doing."

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton likewise criticized the FBI.

"Frankly, there's a disconnect between Comey's devastating findings and his weak recommendation not to prosecute Hillary Clinton," Mr. Fitton said. "Federal prosecutors, independent of politics, need to consider whether to pursue the potential violations of law confirmed by the FBI."

Right to Work: Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) on Friday introduced a bill to make Ohio a right-to-work state, triggering an immediate reaction from state Democrats.

Critics compared the measure (HB 583) to a previous bill that passed in 2011 only to be overwhelmingly overturned by voters (SB5, 129th General Assembly). Since then, Gov. John Kasich has repeatedly said right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda.

The latest bill would remove any requirement under collective bargaining law that public employees must join or pay dues to any employee organization.

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said a decision about where the bill is headed has yet to be made.

"Since the bill was just introduced last week, the Speaker has not yet had a chance to fully review the legislation. When committee and House session resume in the fall, the caucus will discuss the bill further," she said.

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

"Ohio Democrats strongly oppose this ideological attack on Ohio's working families, which will drive down wages, benefits and overall living standards for all Ohio worker," Mr. Pepper said. "It's time for real leadership in Ohio, and it's time for Gov. John Kasich to state unequivocally that he will veto any 'right to work' bill that is sent to his desk."

Hunger: Advocates are continuing to lobby Gov. John Kasich to request full federal food assistance for eligible counties and communities.

The call follows a recent Policy Matters Ohio report that examines communities eligible for a federal waiver of time limits in 2017. The deadline for the waiver request is this summer.

But the state has not submitted such requests in the last three years, prompting Policy Matters and others to urge Gov. Kasich to action.

"The failure to request a waiver of time limits in all eligible areas has hurt people in urban areas like Cleveland, but also in rural places, like Vinton County," PMO Senior Project Director Wendy Patton said. "We again call on the Kasich administration to maximize its use of federal resources so that hungry Ohioans can meet their most basic need - food."

Joining in the call were the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, the Ohio Poverty Law Center, and the Ohio Council of Churches.

U.S. Senate Race: The campaign of U.S. Sen. Rob Portman launched a \$1 million statewide TV ad campaign aimed at highlighting the Terrace Park Republican's record of "standing up to China and fighting for Ohio Workers."

China and trade have been a sticking point between the incumbent and Democratic challenger and former Gov. Ted Strickland, with both throwing continued barbs at their rival's record on the topic.

The latest ad, called "Steel," focuses on Burke Byer of Cincinnati's Byer Steel as he describes an unfair playing field between American and Chinese workers.

"Our new ad highlights Rob's long record of fighting for Ohio manufacturers and workers like those at Cincinnati's Byer Steel," Portman spokeswoman Michawn Rich said. "Rob is the only candidate in this race with a record of standing up to China. Rob is leading the fight to stop China's currency manipulation and level the playing field on trade so Ohio workers can compete and win."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Supplemental Event Planner

No events scheduled.

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Senate Activity for Tuesday, July 5, 2016

INTRODUCED

SCR 22  **FIREARMS (Yuko, K.)** To urge Congress to enact legislation denying firearms and explosives to suspected terrorists.

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Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 6:14 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Ohio Report, Tuesday, July 5, 2016
Attachments: 160705dayplan.htm; Jul5.htm; Jul5Senate.htm



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Ohio Report for Tuesday, July 5, 2016

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Activity Reports

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, July 6

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Historic Parlor and Conservatory, 348 Mentor Avenue, Painesville, 5 p.m., (Event Host: \$1000; Couple: \$150, Individual: \$100 to Friends of John Eklund)

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Volume #85, Report #128 -- Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Supreme Court To Hear Second Traffic Camera Case; City Of Springfield Argues Home Rule Hangs In The Balance

The state's high court has agreed to take up a second challenge to a law that has all but eliminated the use of traffic cameras by municipalities.

The Ohio Supreme Court will hear arguments from the city of Springfield that a measure (SB342, 130th General Assembly) that requires a police officer to be present where traffic cameras are operating violates home rule and is not a general law.

In its memorandum in support of jurisdiction, the city called the law "a thinly veiled attempt to destroy local traffic-camera programs."

The city, which established its traffic camera program in 2005 at 10 intersections with high crash rates, sued over the law in Clark County Common Pleas Court but lost. It then took its case to the Second District Court of Appeals, where it again was unsuccessful.

The city now argues that if the appellate court decision is upheld, it could cripple the concept of home rule throughout the state.

"The Second District's decision erroneously reduces municipal authority and would return cities and villages to the position they were in before the people of the state of Ohio changed their constitution in 1912," the city wrote.

The city also makes the case that a "state statute with the principal purpose and effect of limiting municipal authority is not a general law to which municipal ordinances must yield."

"The Legislative Service Commission told the General Assembly that a single section of the bill, the section requiring a police officer to be present at the camera site, would cost municipalities \$73 million. The police officer sitting at the intersection has no role in the photo-enforcement process," the city wrote. "Inexplicably, SB342 requires that the officer sitting idly at a camera site must be a full-time officer. These provisions serve only one purpose - to burden photo-enforcement programs with excessive costs so that cities and villages will abandon them."

The court declined to take up a third proposition of law on whether a municipality has standing to seek a declaratory judgment declaring a state statute to be an unconstitutional incursion of its power of local self-government even where the statute does not conflict with a municipal ordinance.

In an amicus brief filed with the court in support of jurisdiction, the Ohio Municipal League and the city of Dayton, which is engaged in its own litigation over the law, also make the case that the concept of home rule is at stake. The city of Toledo has also filed an amicus brief in support of jurisdiction in the case.

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Josh Eck, spokesman for Secretary of State Jon Husted, said the appeals process should be allowed to play out.

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There are other hurdles that hinder cooperation, she said, including geography. Hospitals and health districts don't always serve the same areas.

John Palmer, a spokesman for the Ohio Hospital Association, said hospitals already work with health districts on community health assessments, but the change will make that cooperation even easier.

"This new provision will strengthen involvement and support collaboration for our members and their partners that will benefit Ohioans and our communities," he said in an email.

One concern for local public health officials is the added cost and effort of producing the assessments every three years as opposed to every five, Ms. Bickford said.

"They're concerned about taxing their community partners with a process that is a time investment," she said. "There's a fair amount of concern about the extra time, money and asking others to commit their time as well to have it done more frequently."

The assessments look at a number of health factors affecting their communities, including rates of smoking, chronic conditions, risk factors and infectious diseases, Ms. Bickford said. Getting better information and coordinating efforts more will improve the picture health officials have of their communities' concerns.

"We can do a better job of seeing whether or not we're moving the needle on some of these health indicators," she said.

The change is also part of a broader state goal of aligning health assessments and planning to affect overall population health outcomes, according to a presentation by OHT. That broader goal includes a state health assessment, a draft of which was released last week (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2016), and a state health improvement plan slated for the fall.

Ohio's Competitive Marketplace Driving Lower-Than-Average Policy Rates, Insurance Leaders Say

Ohio's insurance marketplace is among the largest in the country and a plethora of companies call the state home - both factors that play a part in residents paying lower-than-average rates for casualty and property policies, according to the Department of Insurance.

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who also serves as director of ODI, pointed to a recently released 2015 market share report of state-licensed property and casualty groups as proof that Ohio's policies continue to drive low insurance rates and make the state a preferable place to do business

"We are focused on protecting consumers and fostering a competitive marketplace that is efficiently regulated," she said in a statement. "Positive results are being realized on multiple fronts."

There are nearly 1,000 property and casualty companies in the state's marketplace and about 140 of those are headquartered in Ohio, she said in an ODI release. State Farm, which is headquartered in Indiana, has the largest market share, holding 12.6% of all policies.

Meanwhile, Columbus-based Nationwide and Illinois-based Allstate are tied for second place at 6.7% and Progressive, which is headquartered in Mayfield, had the fourth largest market share, the report shows.

Dean Fadel, vice president of government relations for the Ohio Insurance Institute, said the market share report findings are "another demonstration of the competitive nature of the environment" that has been fostered in the state.

"We have the third most companies in the nation vying for Ohio consumers which is translated to us getting below national average rates on homeowners and auto insurance," he said in an interview. "I think when you factor in the urbanization and the traffic in Ohio, we arguably have the lowest rates in the nation."

"It's a marketplace where companies are allowed to compete, they're allowed to use within the regulatory schemes the most modernized ways of providing the product and we don't have a lot of insolvencies," Mr. Fadel added.

Ohio's average auto and homeowners premiums are \$515 below the national averages, according to a 2013 National Association of Insurance Commissioners analysis. Residents paid an average of \$763 for homeowners insurance and \$659 for auto insurance.

Employment opportunities have also been positively impacted by the state's thriving insurance industry, Ms. Taylor said.

Since 2011, she has led the charge to fill a projected 26,000 new insurance jobs by 2020 through an administration initiative called Insuring Ohio Futures. The effort includes partnerships between higher education institutions and industry leaders to create education and career pathways.

As a result, ODI reported that nine Ohio colleges and universities now offer insurance and risk management programs including bachelor, associate degrees short-term certification programs.

"We have been able to transform the landscape in just a few short years," Ms. Taylor said. "Educational programs exist that are ready to help Ohioans of all ages prepare for and claim good paying insurance jobs."

There are currently about 100,000 Ohioans working in the industry, earning the state the designation of having the seventh highest number of insurance employees in the country, according to an OII analysis. About one-third of those careers are in the property/casualty insurance field that the institute represents.

In total, more than 230 insurance companies in all segments of the industry call Ohio home, the institute reported.

Clinton To Open Ohio Campaign Offices, Leads Trump In Latest Fundraising Numbers

Hillary Clinton out fundraised opponent Donald Trump in the Buckeye State nearly eight-to-one for the month of May - even after the GOP field narrowed and the billionaire solidified himself as the last Republican standing.

Building on that momentum, Ms. Clinton's campaign announced Friday the campaign took in another \$40 million during June and said Tuesday that it will open 11 new offices across the state of Ohio in the coming week.

Those include offices in Cleveland, Toledo and Woodland, with phone banks to be established in Boardman, Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Hilliard and Trotwood. The campaign will also host a fundraiser in Lebanon and an organizing event in Delaware this week.

Mr. Trump's campaign, however, has been fairly quiet in Ohio, other than the recent hire of state campaign manager Bob Paduchik. The candidate visited the state for the first time post-primary last week. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

Gov. John Kasich withdrew from the race May 4, clearing the way for Mr. Trump to focus on fundraising and other general election prep rather than seizing delegates. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But the latest Federal Election Commission filings from each campaign show that Ms. Clinton, who for much of May was battling Sen. Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination, raised \$153,447.22 from Ohioans between May 1-31. During that same time period Mr. Trump raised \$18,722.89 in the state.

Released last week, the numbers already showed that Mr. Trump and Ms. Clinton trailed their primary opponents in fundraising from Ohio donors. Sen. Sanders for example raised \$158,768 in Ohio while Sen. Ted Cruz led the Republican side despite his May 3 withdrawal. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 21, 2016)

As both campaigns shift toward the general election, however, the numbers highlight the breadth of Ms. Clinton's fundraising infrastructure compared to that of Mr. Trump's. The candidates entered June - their first full month as the presumptive nominees of their respective parties - with \$42.46 million in cash on hand for the Clinton campaign and nearly \$1.29 million in cash on hand for the Trump campaign.

Of the 57 states or territories in which both candidates received donations in May, Ms. Clinton raised more money by far in all of those areas. Her filing shows the former secretary of state raised nearly \$15.04 million from 64 territories or states, while Mr. Trump raised \$1.01 million from 56 states or territories along with a \$250 donation from a foreign country.

Ms. Clinton even outperformed Mr. Trump in right-leaning states - such as Texas, in which Ms. Clinton hauled in \$1.4 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$122,251. In their home state of New York, where Ms. Clinton was a U.S. Senator, that trend continued with Ms. Clinton earning nearly \$1.87 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$52,697.

In Ohio, Mr. Trump received donations from 25 counties in May - the largest of which were \$5,150 from Franklin County and \$2,700 each from supporters in Lorain and Miami counties. By comparison, Ms. Clinton earned donors in 76 Ohio counties, with the largest donations coming from urban areas - including \$35,818 from Cuyahoga County, \$29,038 from Hamilton County, and \$27,499 from Franklin County.

In response, the Trump campaign launched a fundraising blitz last week leading up to the second quarter FEC filing deadline of June 30th.

The campaign set a goal of raising \$10 million by the deadline, with the candidate's son, Eric Trump, telling supporters via email, "The truth is we did better than \$11 million and no amount of spin from Crooked Hillary's machine can change that fact."

The Clinton campaign, meanwhile, claims to have raised more than \$40 million during the month of June, with an additional \$28 million raised for the Democratic National Committee and state parties.

"Our first month of general election fundraising proved to be the best of the campaign," Campaign Manager Robby Mook said in a statement. "Thanks to the continued support of nearly 1.6 million people, we have been able to help Democrats build out an organizing infrastructure across the country that will mobilize millions of voters and help elect progressive candidates up and down the ballot."

The campaigns' second quarter filings, due July 15, will further show whether that funding gap persists.

Part of the contrast so far is thanks to Mr. Trump's limited fundraising efforts during the primary season. Although the campaign has accepted donations since it launched last year, it has mostly subsisted on loans from Mr. Trump to the campaign. The June filing shows the campaign has received \$45.7 million in loans from or guaranteed by the candidate during the election cycle.

Gov. Kasich, meanwhile, continues to try to aid down-ballot Republicans, including ally U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

A Tuesday email from Kasich's suspended campaign - the second such missive in as many weeks from Kasich for America - highlighted several recent media reports showcasing "Kasich's efforts to help our party maintain the majority in the U.S. Senate and also about Gov. Kasich's ongoing popularity in national polls."

Politics Notebook: FBI Recommends No Charge Over Clinton Emails; ODP Blasts Latest Right-To Work Attempt; Advocates Press Kasich For Action On Hunger...

FBI Director James Comey said Tuesday he is recommending Hillary Clinton not be charged for her handling of classified information via a personal email server while serving as secretary of state.

Still, he strongly chastised the Democratic presumptive nominee and her staff for being "extremely careless" in her handling of sensitive information.

"Although we did not find clear evidence that Secretary Clinton or her colleagues intended to violate laws governing the handling of classified information, there is evidence that they were extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information."

Of the 30,000 emails provided by Ms. Clinton and the State Department in December 2014, the FBI determined 100 emails in 52 email chains contained classified information at the time they were sent or received. Eight of those contained information that was "Top Secret" when sent, 36 contained information that was marked "Secret," and eight contained "Confidential" information.

Director Comey said there were several examples of email communication regarding Top Secret/Special Access Program level information and that it is reasonable for a person in Ms. Clinton's position or her staff to "have known than an unclassified system was no place for that conversation."

Mr. Comey said his recommendation to the Department of Justice, which has the final determination on the matter, was based on a lack of willful intent to violate statute and was reached in "an entirely apolitical and professional way."

"In looking back at our investigations into mishandling or removal of classified information, we cannot find a case that would support bringing criminal charges on these facts," he said. "All the cases prosecuted involved some combination of: clearly intentional and willful mishandling of classified information; or vast quantities of materials exposed in such a way as to support an inference of intentional misconduct; or indications of disloyalty to the United States; or efforts to obstruct justice. We do not see those things here."

A Clinton spokesman said, "We are glad that this matter is now resolved," adding that Ms. Clinton has "long said it was a mistake to use her personal email and she would not do it again."

Republicans at all levels were quick to criticize the FBI's recommendation, with Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges calling the findings "a clear indictment on Hillary Clinton's lack of preparedness and judgment to be commander-in-chief."

"This wouldn't have been an issue had Hillary Clinton followed the law like everybody else and used a State Department account," Mr. Borges said. "Instead, Hillary Clinton set up an email system less secure than Gmail for herself to evade the rules because she didn't want people to know what she was doing."

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton likewise criticized the FBI.

"Frankly, there's a disconnect between Comey's devastating findings and his weak recommendation not to prosecute Hillary Clinton," Mr. Fitton said. "Federal prosecutors, independent of politics, need to consider whether to pursue the potential violations of law confirmed by the FBI."

Right to Work: Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) on Friday introduced a bill to make Ohio a right-to-work state, triggering an immediate reaction from state Democrats.

Critics compared the measure (HB 583) to a previous bill that that passed in 2011 only to be overwhelmingly overturned by voters (SB5, 129th General Assembly). Since then, Gov. John Kasich has repeatedly said right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda.

The latest bill would remove any requirement under collective bargaining law that public employees must join or pay dues to any employee organization.

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said a decision about where the bill is headed has yet to be made.

"Since the bill was just introduced last week, the Speaker has not yet had a chance to fully review the legislation. When committee and House session resume in the fall, the caucus will discuss the bill further," she said.

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

"Ohio Democrats strongly oppose this ideological attack on Ohio's working families, which will drive down wages, benefits and overall living standards for all Ohio worker," Mr. Pepper said. "It's time for real leadership in Ohio, and it's time for Gov. John Kasich to state unequivocally that he will veto any 'right to work' bill that is sent to his desk."

Hunger: Advocates are continuing to lobby Gov. John Kasich to request full federal food assistance for eligible counties and communities.

The call follows a recent Policy Matters Ohio report that examines communities eligible for a federal waiver of time limits in 2017. The deadline for the waiver request is this summer.

But the state has not submitted such requests in the last three years, prompting Policy Matters and others to urge Gov. Kasich to action.

"The failure to request a waiver of time limits in all eligible areas has hurt people in urban areas like Cleveland, but also in rural places, like Vinton County," PMO Senior Project Director Wendy Patton said. "We again call on the Kasich administration to maximize its use of federal resources so that hungry Ohioans can meet their most basic need - food."

Joining in the call were the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, the Ohio Poverty Law Center, and the Ohio Council of Churches.

U.S. Senate Race: The campaign of U.S. Sen. Rob Portman launched a \$1 million statewide TV ad campaign aimed at highlighting the Terrace Park Republican's record of "standing up to China and fighting for Ohio Workers."

China and trade have been a sticking point between the incumbent and Democratic challenger and former Gov. Ted Strickland, with both throwing continued barbs at their rival's record on the topic.

The latest ad, called "Steel," focuses on Burke Byer of Cincinnati's Byer Steel as he describes an unfair playing field between American and Chinese workers.

"Our new ad highlights Rob's long record of fighting for Ohio manufacturers and workers like those at Cincinnati's Byer Steel," Portman spokeswoman Michawn Rich said. "Rob is the only candidate in this race with a record of standing up to China. Rob is leading the fight to stop China's currency manipulation and level the playing field on trade so Ohio workers can compete and win."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Supplemental Event Planner

No events scheduled.

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Senate Activity for Tuesday, July 5, 2016

INTRODUCED

SCR 22

FIREARMS (Yuko, K.) To urge Congress to enact legislation denying firearms and explosives to suspected terrorists.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

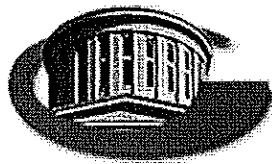
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Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2016 6:15 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Ohio Report, Thursday, July 7, 2016
Attachments: Jul7.htm; 160707dayplan.htm; Jul8Schedule.htm



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Ohio Report for Thursday, July 7, 2016

Stakeholders Point To New Charter Laws As Closures Increase, ODE Denies All Sponsorship Applications

Medicaid Underspensing Driven By Increased Enrollment In Expansion Program, Administration Says

November Ballot Won't Include Any Citizen-Initiated Amendments, Statutes; Some Groups Set Sights On 2017

High Court Set To Hear Two Death Penalty Cases, Along With Four Other Cases Next Week

June Revenue Down At Most Casinos, All Racinos

Cleveland, Akron To Join White House Mentorship Initiative

In Cincinnati, Trump Expands On Controversies; ODP Blasts Billionaire's Business Record

Court Briefs: Buckeye Institute Files Brief In 'Golden Week' Lawsuit; Former Mayor Legally Fired From Lottery Commission Post...

Capitol Scene: Fadel Appointed Ohio Insurance Institute President

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Calendars

Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

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Volume #85, Report #130 -- Thursday, July 7, 2016

Stakeholders Point To New Charter Laws As Closures Increase, ODE Denies All Sponsorship Applications

In the wake of updated charter school laws, the list of buildings closing this summer is longer than ever and the Department of Education has declined to sponsor any new schools that submitted applications.

At the end of the fiscal year, 20 charter schools did not sign new sponsor contracts and will close their doors, according to ODE. Of those, 11 were given notice in January that their sponsors were dropping them, typically because of poor academic performance, while the other half closed voluntarily. (Closure List)

More than 100 other schools have shut down in the last five years, but this year's group is the largest since June 30, 2014 when 19 schools did not sign new contracts.

A handful of the schools that were given notice that their contracts wouldn't be renewed applied to ODE's Office of School Sponsorship, which can sponsor start-up schools and take over existing schools looking for new sponsors.

None of the 10 schools that sought new sponsorship were approved, however - a first for the department, according to application records from previous years. (Sponsorship Applicants)

Charter schools sponsors and supporters point to tighter closure and sponsorship laws (HB 2) as a cause for this year's stats.

Ron Adler, president of the Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, said it's likely that schools will continue to close in higher numbers each year because of sponsors' concerns about how their schools' state report card scores will impact their evaluations.

"I think that there are probably some schools being closed that probably need to be closed. However, I think sponsors today, with some of the criteria that has come through the Ohio Department of Education that has made it almost impossible and created penalties, they don't want to sponsor some schools," he said.

"We've got some sponsors that are very good at turning around schools and (ODE) has created such a fear factor that sponsors are hesitant for their own existence to help and improve the schools."

The new sponsor evaluations, which are detailed in the latest charter school legislation and overseen by ODE, factor in quality, compliance and academic performance.

Sponsors that don't score well in those areas could face losing their ability to continue sponsoring schools.

Sponsors have said they're prepared for poor showings in the performance category because of lower state test scores across the board. Unlike traditional schools, charters were not granted safe harbor from impacts related to report card results reflecting new standardized exams.

In addition to calling out lawmakers for failing to provide them with safe harbor, sponsors have also recently complained that it will be impossible to meet deadlines for producing compliance documentation that was requested by ODE as a result of the new laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 30, 2016)

"I think that House Bill 2 is being revered by some," Mr. Adler said in an interview. "I see it as all compliance, compliance, compliance. It is 106 pages of rules, regulations and mandates that just make it more difficult to operate and improve achievement."

Chad Aldis, vice president of Ohio policy and advocacy for the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, agreed that it is likely sponsors gave consideration to the new evaluations when making closure decisions this year.

But, he said he's hopeful that any needed tweaks can be made to both the laws and as the new procedures play out over the next few years.

"There are a lot of good charter schools and we wouldn't want to see them closed as a result of this and you also wouldn't want to see sponsors so afraid of the provisions that they won't open potentially new, strong, innovative schools that could really make a difference for kids," Mr. Aldis said.

"I think what we're in right now is a little bit of a correction phase and hopefully sponsors will have confidence in their decisions and continue to open schools when the school is likely to be successful."

Five sponsors in the state have plans to open 10 start-up schools for the 2016-17 school year, according to ODE. (Potential New Schools List)

ODE's Office of School Sponsorship will be evaluated with all other sponsors, but is not impacted by the new rating system that could prohibit a sponsor from taking on new schools or put a sponsor out of business.

However, the office took a more discerning approach this year when reviewing applications for taking over existing schools or aiding start-up operations.

"A top priority for the Ohio Department of Education is a strong system of accountability for all schools in our state, including charter schools and their sponsors," agency spokeswoman Brittany Halpin said. "Provisions in the recent charter school reform

legislation strengthen the department's ability to support high quality options for the state's students."

In the past, the department was required to sponsor any school that followed the application process correctly, but new laws allow it to deny schools that aren't meeting certain standards.

Mr. Aldis called the update that allowed it to decline all of this year's applications a "smart change."

"If (ODE) is going to sponsor schools, it should absolutely be able to determine whether the schools are performing well before it just takes one on," he said in an interview.

It's possible schools will continue to close at the same pace in coming years because House Bill 2 also put in place some guardrails to limit so-called "sponsor-hopping," Mr. Aldis said.

Updated laws prohibit charter schools from seeking new sponsorship if they don't meet fiscal management or performance requirements.

"The ability for lower performing schools to change sponsors is not what it used to be, so when you see the overall number of closures, some of those in the past might have gone on to a different sponsor and that can't happen now," he said.

Medicaid Underspending Driven By Increased Enrollment In Expansion Program, Administration Says

The Kasich administration credits an improving economy and a more accurate eligibility determination system with driving nearly \$1.3 billion in Medicaid underspending last fiscal year.

The Medicaid program finished the year spending about \$926 million less than expected from the General Revenue Fund, and nearly \$1.3 billion less than expected from all funds, according to the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

The underspending continues a longtime trend in the program covering multiple administrations. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 6, 2016)

According to OHT, the program enrolled about 3 million Ohioans on an average monthly basis during fiscal year 2016, about 32,000 below projections. While the overall enrollment was below projections, the number of people enrolled in the expansion group, which is completely funded by federal dollars, increased by 26,000.

Meanwhile, the number of people enrolled in the traditional program, which is partially funded by the state, was 58,000 below the estimate, according to OHT.

The administration said part of this shift is due to an improving economy - as people make more money, they move out of traditional Medicaid and into the expansion group, which includes people making up to 138% of the federal poverty level.

OHT also credited a new and more accurate system to determine eligibility, which assigns new enrollees to the proper category and moves them off the program as their finances improve.

Total Medicaid spending from all funding sources was \$25.3 billion, of which nearly \$17 billion came through the General Revenue Fund.

The federal share of Medicaid spending last fiscal year was \$715 million, or 3.9%, below the original budget estimate, while the state's share was \$550 million, or 6.7%, below the original estimate, according to OHT.

In fiscal year 2015, the Department of Medicaid reported total Medicaid spending of \$1.9 billion below the original budget estimate.

That year, enrollment for the expansion group was more than 152,000 above the original estimate, while enrollment in the traditional program was 192,000 below estimate.

November Ballot Won't Include Any Citizen-Initiated Amendments, Statutes; Some Groups Set Sights On 2017

No citizen-initiated issues will appear on November's ballot, Secretary of State Jon Husted announced Thursday, a day after the deadline to file petitions for proposed constitutional amendments and initiated statutes.

A few high-profile efforts to reach the ballot were made this year, including two related to medical marijuana and one related to prescription drug prices, but none of those issues found a place on the ballot in November.

Backers of an initiated statute designed to lower the cost of prescription drugs will aim for 2017, said Michael Weinstein, president of the California-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which supported the measure.

Supporters of the proposal, called the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act, initially gathered enough signatures to bring it before the legislature, where no action was taken, but a review of those petitions by the secretary of state's office delayed the collection of signatures, prompting lawsuits by the initiated statute's supporters in state and federal courts. Both cases were dismissed after Mr. Husted transmitted the proposal to the General Assembly. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 19, 2016)

In an email, Mr. Weinstein said the proposal will have to wait for next year after the delays.

"We will go for 2017," he said. "We are collecting and will submit sufficient signatures within the 90 days allowed."

Another lawsuit, filed by industry groups challenging the petition signatures gathered for the initiated statute, is ongoing. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016)

A proposal dealing with lawmaker lobbying, called Ethics First - You Decide Ohio, also made a push for the ballot. The Ballot Board divided the issue into three different issues, a decision the amendment's backers challenged in the Ohio Supreme Court. The Court dismissed that challenge in May. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

Ronald Alban, one of the proposal's backers, said in an email that they have no intention of moving forward with the proposal.

Two citizen-initiated proposals to legalize medical marijuana, one backed by the Washington-based Marijuana Policy Project and the other by a group called Grassroots Ohio, will also not appear on the ballot after an early push in the wake of last year's failed Issue 3 vote.

The MPP-backed Ohioans for Medical Marijuana group announced it would not pursue the ballot after lawmakers passed a bill (HB 523) in May creating a medical marijuana system. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2016)

Backers of Grassroots Ohio have said they are pushing forward with their proposal, which would create a constitutional right to possess marijuana for a medical purpose, with an eye on the 2017 ballot.

High Court Set To Hear Two Death Penalty Cases, Along With Four Other Cases Next Week

The Ohio Supreme Court will hear appeals in two death penalty cases next week.

In one case, an Akron man convicted of the 2011 murders of his children's mother and her boyfriend plans to raise 14 legal claims in appealing both his sentence and conviction.

David Spaulding, who was sentenced to death for the 2011 murder of Erica Singleton and Ernest Thomas, will argue that he received ineffective legal counsel because both of his attorneys were not present for all proceedings in the case, that a witness' statement should have been suppressed and that he was denied legal counsel during interrogation.

Ms. Singleton obtained a civil protection order against Mr. Spaulding on Dec. 1, 2011, following a string of domestic violence incidents. However, two weeks later, Mr. Spaulding showed up at the place Ms. Singleton was staying with Mr. Thomas. He first shot another tenant, Patrick Griffin, who was paralyzed by the shooting, before killing Ms. Singleton and Mr. Thomas in their driveway.

In January 2013, a jury convicted Mr. Spaulding of aggravated murder, attempted murder and violation of a protection order.

In the second case, a Medina County man will argue that seven claims of legal and procedural errors should afford him a new trial.

Steven Cepec will claim that, among other issues, he was prejudiced by statements in court about a prior burglary conviction, that the trial court should have held a hearing on the competency of a witness and that his constitutional rights were violated because police continued to question him after he asked for a lawyer.

Mr. Cepec was convicted of murder, aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary following the 2010 death of Frank Munz, who was found bludgeoned with a hammer and strangled with a lamp cord.

Police arrived on the scene while Mr. Cepec was still in the home after receiving a call from Mr. Munz's nephew, Paul Munz, whose testimony at trial was called into question in the appeal. Upon arrival by the police, Mr. Cepec fled on foot. He was later found nearby hiding under a bush, the court reported.

The high court will hear four other cases next week:

- In *re Application of Buckeye Wind*, the high court will hear arguments from Champaign County residents that a hearing should be held on amended construction plans for the state's first wind-powered generation facility. The Power Siting Board approved a construction application in 2010 and the developer proposed revision to the plans in 2013.
- In *Disciplinary Counsel v. Joltin*, disciplinary counsel will object to the professional conduct board's proposed sanctions on a Canfield attorney found to have mishandled client funds, mismanaged his client trust account and not fully cooperated with the investigation. The professional conduct board proposed a sanction of two years, with 18 months stayed under certain conditions. However, disciplinary counsel will argue for an indefinite suspension.
- In *Defiance County v. Testa*, the court will consider whether the tax commissioner lawfully denied a Defiance County commissioner's request to transfer \$2.5 million from the county landfill fund to pay for emergency repairs to the county courthouse and to make renovations to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
- In *Foley v. University of Dayton*, the court will decide what the statute of limitations is for filing a negligent misidentification claim and whether absolute privilege or qualified privilege shield the defendants' statements to law enforcement.

June Revenue Down At Most Casinos, All Racinos

Overall revenue at Ohio's four casinos was down in June, with three of them seeing decreases from May, according to the Casino Control Commission.

The four casinos took in \$62.9 million in revenue in June, down from \$66.5 million in May and the lowest total of the year so far, according to revenue reports. Last June, the casinos brought in \$63.5 million, the lowest monthly total of the year.

Video lottery terminals at the state's racinos brought in a total of \$70.7 million in June, down from \$78.2 million in May. They ended the fiscal year with nearly \$869 million in revenue, up from \$773 million in fiscal year 2015. (VLT reports)

JACK Cleveland was the only Ohio casino to see an uptick in revenue in June, bringing in \$16.3 million compared to just over \$16 million in May, according to revenue reports. The casino was closed for 40 hours in May while it rebranded from Horseshoe Cleveland to JACK Cleveland.

Of JACK Cleveland's revenue, \$8.7 million came from table games, while \$7.6 came from slot machines, according to the report. The casino's monthly revenue was up nearly \$2 million from \$14.4 million in June 2015.

JACK Cincinnati saw the biggest drop in revenue in June, bringing in \$14.1 million compared to \$16.2 million the month before. JACK Cincinnati was closed for 40 hours in June to rebrand from Horseshoe Cincinnati. Of its revenue in June, \$9.4 million came from slot machines and \$4.6 million came from table games. Last June, the casino brought in \$16.1 million.

Hollywood Columbus saw revenue drop by more than \$860,000, falling from nearly \$17.8 million in May to more than \$16.9 million in June. Slot machines accounted for \$11.8 million in revenue, while table games accounted for \$5.1 million. Last June, the casino's revenue was \$16.4 million.

Hollywood Toledo saw revenue drop nearly \$900,000 to \$15.6 million in June, with more than \$13 million coming from slot machines and \$2.6 million coming from table games. Last June, the casino took in \$16.6 million.

Racinos: VLT revenue at all seven of the states racinos declined from May to June, with Scioto Downs seeing the largest decrease, dropping nearly \$1.7 million from just under \$13.5 million in May to just under \$11.8 million in June.

At Hard Rock Racino Northfield Park, revenue fell more than \$1.5 million to \$17.9 million in June, while at Miami Valley Gaming it fell by nearly \$1.5 million to \$10.8 million.

Revenue at JACK Thistledown Racino fell by more than \$941,000 to \$9.1 million. At Hollywood Mahoning Valley Race Course, it fell by nearly \$806,000 to \$7.6 million. Revenue at Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway fell more than \$693,000 to just under \$7 million in June, and revenue at Belterra Park fell more than \$457,000 to \$6.4 million.

Cleveland, Akron To Join White House Mentorship Initiative

U.S. Sen Sherrod Brown will be joined by administration officials this week in Northeast Ohio to expand an initiative that aims to provide mentoring and opportunities for boys and young men of color.

My Brother's Keeper, a program launched by President Obama in 2014, is coming to Akron and Cleveland Friday, the Avon Democrat announced in a Thursday call with reporters.

They will join Dayton, Columbus, Massillon, East Cleveland and Berea in becoming MBK communities that provide mentorship and resources. Sen. Brown said Cincinnati is also preparing to take part in the initiative.

"It's up to all of us to ensure that all our children - regardless of their zip code or the color of their skin - have the opportunity to succeed," he said. "And I hope more cities across our state will accept the My Brother's Keeper Challenge, and work toward that goal."

Nearly 250 communities have agreed to be part of the MBK Challenge, said Broderick Johnson, chair of president's MBK Task Force. Partnerships in those communities have resulted in more than \$600 million in grants and in-kind resources.

One of the latest drives of the initiative is to link sixth and ninth graders with mentors who can provide support and encouragement to go to school and work toward graduation, he said. Cleveland will be among 30 communities in the country that will provide those mentors focused on reducing chronic absences from school.

Federal agencies also recently partnered to launch the Second Chance Pell pilot program under the MBK umbrella, Mr. Johnson said. It allows 67 colleges and universities - including Ashland University - to provide Pell Grants to 12,000 inmates.

"We're working to make sure the various departments of the federal government that are part of the MBK Task Force continue to look at the programs they have and collaborate on programs to make sure that we can better target federal resources and partnerships with the private sector so that every child in this country has a clear pathway to success, really from crib through college and career," he said during the call.

MBK Mentor Quinn Howard said the program is working in Dayton to provide positive role models for young men of color.

The starting point for Dayton's mentorship program is to help youth "see themselves as contributors to the community," he said.

"Young men in our community need to see positive role models that they can emulate," Mr. Howard said. "It is important not only to provide young men with direction and guidance but to also build nurturing relationships through listening and understanding."

Mentoring young men with basic fundamental values will hopefully provide them with a sense of purpose that can help can help them succeed in life."

In Cincinnati, Trump Expands On Controversies; ODP Blasts Billionaire's Business Record

Before Donald Trump took the stage in Cincinnati Wednesday evening, he was expected to use the speech to hammer Hillary Clinton over recent events pertaining to her use of a private email server.

Instead, he spent most of his time stoking further controversy over his recent comments on Saddam Hussein and doubling down in his defense of an image he tweeted that has been deemed to be anti-Semitic.

The GOP presumptive nominee did strike out at Ms. Clinton in his stream-of-consciousness remarks, deriding an FBI recommendation that she not be charged and, in a tangent, likening her to a mosquito when one landed on his lectern.

"It's a disgrace," he said. "She has got bad judgment."

But the candidate spent more than two-thirds of his more than one-hour long speech seeking to explain his own controversies in recent days, effectively fanning the media attention those remarks have received.

That includes controversy over Mr. Trump's Saturday tweet featuring a picture of Ms. Clinton against a backdrop of dollar bills with a six-pointed star containing the text "Most corrupt politician ever."

The tweet drew criticism from those contending the graphic is rooted in anti-Semitism, but Mr. Trump has since said the star is less a Star of David and more of a "sheriff's badge" and that it is the media, not his campaign, that is being prejudicial.

"(The media's) profiling," he told the Sharonville crowd. "Not us. Because why are they bringing this up?"

Mr. Trump, in his most expansive remarks on the topic yet, said he was disappointed his staff took down the tweet.

He also expanded on his prior remarks at a Tuesday rally and in interviews in which he seemingly praised Saddam Hussein for dispatching terrorists. House Speaker Paul Ryan and others have criticized the remarks.

In his comments Wednesday, Mr. Trump said it was inaccurate to characterize his comments as "praise" for the fallen dictator.

"I said Saddam Hussein is a bad man...but he did one thing well: he killed terrorists," Mr. Trump said. "I wake up and turn on the television: 'Donald Trump loves Saddam Hussein.' That's not what I said."

In a one-on-one interview with the Cincinnati Enquirer, Mr. Trump said, "That's not praising Saddam Hussein. I would say maybe it's the opposite."

The interview seemingly led a Trump spokeswoman to attempt to "dress down" the reporter for "disrespectful questioning," according to tweets of the exchange from the journalist.

"I said Trump's the GOP candidate for president and tough questions are part of the job," the reporter tweeted. "(Trump press secretary Hope Hicks) said as a candidate he deserves respect."

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a potential VP pick, also appeared at the rally, though his appearance was overshadowed in media reports by Mr. Trump's speech.

He accused the Clintons of corruption and questioned the timing of the recent FBI announcement. He also took a swipe at Gov. John Kasich, who has declined to endorse the billionaire, saying that although the governor "is a good friend of mine, it's about time he got on the Trump bandwagon."

Democrats: State Party Chairman David Pepper and Columbus City Councilmember Jaiza Page held a press conference on the steps of Columbus City Hall Thursday, responding to Mr. Trump's remarks and seeking to cast him as a failed businessman.

Mr. Pepper contrasted Mr. Trump's Cincinnati appearance with Ms. Clinton's Ohio visit last week, saying of Mr. Trump's speech "I don't even know how to characterize what a disturbing speech it was." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2016)

Organized by the Clinton campaign, the event was the latest in a line of attacks from Clinton supporters on Mr. Trump's business dealings in Atlantic City, which they contend includes bankruptcies, failures to pay contractors and the loss of hundreds of jobs.

Mr. Trump has promised to bring the same level of success to running the country as he has to his business ventures.

"(In Atlantic City,) Trump came out on top but the city didn't," Mr. Pepper said. "It's not just Atlantic City. This is a pattern over the years all around the country.... We just can't let Donald Trump do to Ohio, do to Columbus, what he did to Atlantic City and what he's done to innocent Americans all over the state through his business actions and scams."

Court Briefs: Buckeye Institute Files Brief In 'Golden Week' Lawsuit; Former Mayor Legally Fired From Lottery Commission Post...

The Buckeye Institute has joined the battle over whether Ohioans should have a five-day window in which they can register to vote and cast ballots on the same day.

The group has filed a brief in the U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals supporting Secretary of State Jon Husted's challenge to a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio.

The Buckeye Institute, however, challenged that finding in its brief.

"The fact that African Americans previously used Golden Week at slightly higher rates does not suggest that they will somehow stop participating under the new law. All the minority voters who voted in Golden Week are ready and able to vote in the current four-week period, and there is no evidence suggesting they will not avail themselves of that broad opportunity," it reads.

Representing The Buckeye Institute in the case is Michael Carvin, an election and appellate law expert with the global Jones Day law firm.

"Plaintiffs argue that a federal law that has been on the books for 34 years suddenly requires Ohio to extend its already generous early voting and requires Ohio to permit same-day registration. The law does no such things," Mr. Carvin said in a statement. "Nor does it invalidate the laws of the 40 states that offer fewer voting days than Ohio."

Firing: The Court of Claims has found that former Seven Hills Mayor David Bentkowski was legally terminated from his post at the Lottery Commission.

Mr. Bentkowski, who was terminated in November 2012, alleged that his supervisor and the lottery's director of human resources engaged in discriminatory practices. He claimed Elizabeth Popadiuk made discriminatory remarks about Lottery Commission employees, which she denied, the high court reported.

Court of Claims Judge Patrick McGrath found that Mr. Bentkowski failed to prove that his firing was payback for claiming the employer was engaged in discriminating practices.

Pro Bono Work: Ohio attorneys provided pro bono work in 2015 to the tune of \$10.3 million, the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation and the Ohio Supreme Court reported Thursday.

More than 4,300 attorneys reported pro bono activity in 2015, accounting for about 76,300 hours of free legal service.

Another \$406,000 was donated to organizations that provide legal services to low-income Ohioans.

"We were excited that the number of attorneys who voluntarily reported their pro bono work more than doubled from last year," OLAF's Pro Bono and Communications Director Jane Taylor said in a statement. "I believe these results reflect the Court's continuing emphasis on access to justice for all and its strong commitment to ensuring that every Ohioan can get legal help, regardless of income."

Capitol Scene: Fadel Appointed Ohio Insurance Institute President

Longtime Ohio Insurance Institute staffer Dean Fadel will serve as the association's newest president, OII Board Chairman Tim Timmel announced Thursday.

Mr. Fadel, who has been with OII since 1988 and currently serves as its vice president of government relations, will transition to the new position over the next few weeks, according to the board.

He'll replace President Dan Kelso, who recently announced retirement plans. Mr. Kelso had led the association since 1989, when it merged with the Insurance Federation of Ohio, which he had overseen since 1977.

"We're confident that the association will continue making great strides on behalf of its members, Ohio's property/casualty (P/C) insurance companies, with a focus on maintaining the stable, affordable insurance environment that Ohio consumers have experienced for decades," Mr. Timmel said of the transition.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, July 13

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Friday, July 8

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (The Code Committee will meet immediately after the full board.)

State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.

Event Planner

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser, Mohawk Golf and Country Club, 4399 S. State Route 231, Tiffin, 8:30 a.m., (8:30am Light Breakfast and Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Major Sponsor: \$2,500; Registration Sponsor: \$1,500; Scoreboard Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$600; Driving Range Sponsor: \$500; Beverage Cart Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$175; Hole Sponsor: \$150 to Friends of Bill Reineke)

Summer Fridays at the Statehouse concert, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 12 p.m., (RMT)

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Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 7/8/2016

Monday, July 11

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 466-4086), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.


Tuesday, July 12

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Seitz, B., 466-8068), Finance Hearing Rm., 1 p.m.

- Confirmation hearings on governor's appointments of Asim Haque and Howard Petricoff, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Thursday, July 21

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Burke, D., 466-1731), Senate Finance Hearing Rm, 9 a.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 5:45 PM
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Ohio Report for Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In = 2Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Attorney General's Opinion

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Calendars

Day Planner

Event Planner

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Volume #85, Report #136 -- Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

A Senate leader said lawmakers may not act on the soon-to-end freeze on renewable energy and energy efficiency standards until sometime next year.

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina), the Senate's president pro tem and likely next chamber leader, said in an interview this week he advocates for an "all the above approach" to rethinking the mandates that were frozen in 2014 and are set to kick back in at the end of this year without legislative action.

But such an undertaking might not be easier considering the limited number of session days scheduled this fall, he said. The Senate is scheduled to return in late September with at most 21 days set for work in committees, and much fewer days anticipated for full sessions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2016) The House, meanwhile, is set to reconvene after the November election with at most eight full session days.

"I think that's a pretty big issue and if there's not that many session days it remains to be seen whether that'll be tackled in that amount of time," Sen. Obhof said. "I definitely think moving forward whether it's at the end of this year or at the beginning of the next General Assembly we need to come up with a comprehensive and consistent policy on energy."

By not acting by Dec. 31, the freeze would thaw, allowing the standards to kick back into effect, which Republicans argue could harm Ohio considering lingering uncertainty over the federal Clean Power Plan and other unknowns. Proponents of the standards say any effort to extend the freeze or lower the standards would take the state backward.

There are currently three bills pending in either chamber with different approaches. A bill from Sen. Bill Seitz (SB 320) would extend the freeze until 2019, while a bill from Rep. Ron Amstutz (HB 554) would extend the freeze indefinitely. A third bill (SB 325), from Sen. Kris Jordan, would abolish the mandates completely. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 11, 2016)

If none of those bills pass by the end of the 131st General Assembly, the legislative slate will be wiped clean and a new bill would need to be authored to tackle the issue next year.

Sen. Obhof said that even if lawmakers act on the freeze, he believes more comprehensive action would be needed in the next General Assembly.

"I think there will be some kind of action in the next 12 to 18 months regardless of whether the freeze is extended or not," Sen. Obhof said. "I don't know if there is any

science supporting the current numbers and mandates in law. I think we need to have a fact-based approach, one that has room for all the natural resources available."

The pending end of the freeze is one of the reasons cited by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) as a reason for more Republican scrutiny of Gov. John Kasich's recent appointee to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Democratic attorney Howard Petricoff on Tuesday faced his first hearing before the Sen. Seitz's Senate Public Utilities Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 12, 2016)

"I believe we're at a unique crossroads caused by a fairly simultaneous convergence of numerous complex issues," Sen. Seitz said. "I think we all need to make an effort to understand each other on these issues and of course no one is more central to that vortex than the five members of the PUCO."

Other uncertainties he cited include ongoing rehearings of proposed Power Purchase Agreements from AEP and FirstEnergy, the departure of former PUCO Chairman Andre Porter, and the ongoing federal court case over the legality of the Clean Power Plan.

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

In one of the first significant rhetorical volleys in this legislative campaign cycle, the rising controversy over funding and student attendance at the state's largest online charter school is a point of contention in the race for the open 16th Senate District.

Democrat Cathy Johnson, a teacher looking to upset favored Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) in the right-leaning western Franklin County seat, fired the initial salvo this week in criticizing the Republican over issues related to the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

Her criticisms were dismissed by Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee, who described the Democrat's statements as "misguided to say the least" and defended the Republican's positions on and support for education.

The race for the seat being vacated by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) is one of only a handful in the Senate this year that's expected to be even marginally competitive thanks to the GOP-led reapportionment process. It has trended Republican for several years, but Democrats are hoping that with a polarizing candidate atop the GOP ticket they can make hay in legislative races this fall.

ECOT is currently locked in a legal battle with the Ohio Department of Education over attendance records, with a looming audit having the potential to strip millions of funding from the online charter founded by Bill Lager. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 11, 2016)

Ms. Johnson in a campaign release "announced her support" for ODE's attempts to examine ECOT's records and said Rep. Kunze voted "against measures to hold e-

schools accountable in 2015" and "has accepted \$33,000 from ECOT's founder, Bill Lager, over the past four years."

"As a mother, teacher and taxpayer, I am astonished by the deceptive tactics of this taxpayer-funded e-school," Ms. Johnson said. "It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance."

The Democrat said Ms. Kunze "voted with Republicans to block amendments that would have required annual audits for charter school operators, clarified that records of all charter school operators are public records and given the public more access to information on charter school board members and meeting times."

"It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance," Ms. Johnson added. "Instead, she chose to accept donations from ECOT's founder. We need a State Senator who is dedicated to fighting for students and families. Anyone can say yes to special interests with deep pockets."

Sen. Burke questioned the focus of Ms. Johnson's assertions, saying Rep. Kunze has a record that belies such criticisms.

"Stephanie Kunze has a record of supporting both public education and parent choice," he said. "I would also say that both traditional public education and charter schools and ECOT schools, etc. are all in need of improvement beyond a shadow of a doubt and that is what we're working on."

To that end, Sen. Burke said, Ms. Kunze was a cosponsor of HB 2, which he described as "the largest reform bill dealing with non-traditional public schools." As the legislature continues to look for improvements to all kinds of public schools, he added, "she is obviously supportive of that."

"I would say, unlike Ms. Johnson's statement, that rather than have a singular source of education, that Stephanie believes parents should have a choice. The competition within that market drives improvement, so in order for public schools to get better, parents should have a choice."

The Republican said some of the tabled budget amendments the Democrat is apparently referring to "would have basically eliminated parent choice."

Sen. Burke also pushed back on the suggestion of a quid pro quo involving campaign donations.

"I imagine Stephanie Kunze, like me, accepts money from a lot of people," he said. "I've taken money from Bill Lager. I also was a direct cosponsor of (Sen. Peggy Lehner's) bill to reform ECOT and charter schools from day one."

"I guess the inverse question there would be, 'If the (Ohio Education Association) paid money to Stephanie Kunze, do you think she'd change?' I'm guessing probably not."

The debate over ECOT escalated considerably in recent weeks as ODE moved forward with plans to review the schools attendance records. In the latest twist, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported Thursday that ECOT is refusing to release some of the requested data.

As election season progresses, Democrats have increasingly pointed to the majority GOP's ties to ECOT, which has been at the forefront of the Republican-led expansion of the charter industry in the state.

Carrying forward the support of his predecessor, Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) spoke at this year's ECOT graduation ceremony, which in the past has been attended by other prominent Republican officeholders.

The Ohio Democratic Party recently called for a moratorium on state funding to ECOT and a larger investigation into the state's charter school system, stating: "Last year as the Ohio General Assembly considered a bill to reform charter schools, Lager gave nearly \$150,000 to 21 Ohio Republican legislators over the course of two months."

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Donald Trump on Friday became the first presumptive nominee to announce his vice presidential pick via Twitter.

As expected, Mr. Trump confirmed he has tabbed Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate in a tweet shortly before 11 a.m.

Mr. Trump had previously announced he was postponing the New York City press conference where he was expected to make the announcement following a mass killing in Nice, France.

But Gov. Pence faced a noon deadline Friday by which to withdraw from his gubernatorial reelection bid in order for the Indiana Republican Party to name a replacement candidate, meaning the news would have been confirmed then even without an announcement from the Trump campaign.

The formal news conference will now take place at 11 a.m. Saturday in New Jersey.

Word broke Thursday that the first term Indiana governor and former congressman was to be Mr. Trump's No. 2.

Gov. Pence has been engaged in a gubernatorial rematch with Democrat John Gregg - a race that's taken on a new element of competitiveness following Republican discontent over Mr. Pence's handling of last year's so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Mr. Pence, well thought of in religious conservative circles, is seen as an attempt by Mr. Trump to appeal to that voter bloc and to create inroads with Congress, where Gov. Pence served from 2001-2013.

The campaign of DNC presumptive nominee Hillary Clinton immediately blasted the pick in a statement, calling it the "most extreme VP pick in a generation."

Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta criticized the governor for defunding Planned Parenthood, advocating early on for the Tea Party movement, and signing a religious freedom law that opponents say legalized discrimination against LGBT citizens.

"By picking Mike Pence as his running mate, Donald Trump has doubled down on some of his most disturbing beliefs by choosing an incredibly divisive and unpopular running mate known for supporting discriminatory politics and failed economic policies that favor millionaires and corporations over working families," Mr. Podesta said.

The campaign then promptly organized a media call featuring allied groups criticizing the Republican ticket.

Rules Committee: GOP leaders and Trump loyalists thwarted plans to undermine Mr. Trump's candidacy during a closely watched RNC Rules Committee meeting Thursday.

The morning meeting was delayed several hours while party leaders attempted to negotiate with members of the "Never Trump" movement, but talks soon fell apart. Those members had hoped to change rules to permit delegates to vote their conscience, thereby freeing bound delegates to vote against Mr. Trump on the first ballot.

But as the day wore on it became clear the anti-Trump contingent had too little support for success and lacked the required votes to create a minority report that would have ensured debate on the issue before the full convention next week. Amendment author Kendal Unruh said she would still attempt to earn the required 28 signatures for a minority report.

Following much debate, delegates also shot down a proposed amendment that would have barred lobbyists from being members of the RNC - a change Ohio delegate and lobbyist JoAnn Davidson strongly criticized in remarks before the body.

The committee, which had planned to meet Friday, eventually finished the agenda late Thursday and adjourned. The rules package will be sent to the full convention Monday for consideration.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said the meeting "made clear the high level of unity within our Party."

"Grassroots voices from every state and territory have crafted a set of rules which will keep our party strong at the local, state, and national level, and we honored the spirit of democracy by conducting our Rules Committee meeting in a completely open and transparent fashion," he said.

Schedule: The RNC had not yet released an official schedule of events for convention week in Cleveland as of midday Friday, just two days before the RNC is schedule to kickoff.

But Ohio leaders and others have already announced a slew of ancillary events timed to capitalize on the convention crowd.

The Ohio Republican Party will host daily 8 a.m. breakfasts featuring Treasurer Josh Mandel and U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton (Monday); U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson and Frank Luntz (Tuesday); U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi and House Speaker Paul Ryan (Wednesday); and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (Thursday).

The ORP already announced a 3:30 p.m. Tuesday event at the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame to honor Gov. John Kasich.

A sampling of other events during the course of the week includes:

- Sunday - a "Taste of Little Italy" event featuring Attorney General Mike DeWine at 3 p.m. at Tony Brush Park
- Monday - a 3 p.m. campaign event in which Sen. Rob Portman, former Speaker Newt Gingrich and Sen. Joni Ernst will address Sen. Portman volunteers at the Tri-C Metropolitan Campus
- Tuesday, a 10:15 a.m. reception for media members with Sen. Rob Portman; and 11 a.m. welcome tea hosted by the Ohio Federation of Republican Women at the Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square featuring U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)

A partial list of convention speakers was officially released Thursday, although the time and dates of the speeches have yet to be announced by the RNC.

In contrast, the Democratic National Convention Committee announced Friday the headline speakers for the DNC in Philadelphia later this month. They include First Lady Michelle Obama and Sen. Bernie Sanders July 25, President Bill Clinton July 26, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden July 27, and Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton July 28.

A series of musical acts will perform each day of the RNC at Freedom Plaza, which will also include drinks and food. For a complete list, visit the RNC's website. An evening

concert, featuring a variety of "American Idol" and "The Voice" winners will take place at 11 p.m. Tuesday at Gray's Armory.

The Clinton campaign and the DNC, meanwhile, are organizing their own counter events in Cleveland with a slew of press conferences and conference calls aimed at undercutting the RNC. Former Gov. Ted Strickland and the Ohio Democratic Party will also ramp up their attacks on U.S. Sen. Rob Portman as they seek to link him to Mr. Trump.

Other groups have scheduled their own events to criticize Republicans. The Ohio AFL-CIO is set to "welcome" Republicans to the city during a 2 p.m. Sunday event featuring former Gov. Ted Strickland at the Laborers' Local 310 Hall.

ProgressOhio has created a calendar of counter events that includes a "Daily Show" convention sideshow, League of Women Voters voter registration drives, and daily nonviolence training for protestors.

Bob Bennett: The City of Cleveland granted a secondary street name to the intersection of Ontario Street and Huron Road for the duration of the convention. The intersection will be known as Bob Bennett Way in honor of former ORP chairman.

"More than any one person, Bob Bennett steadfastly sought to bring the Convention to Cleveland," Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges said. "We are sad that he is not here to see the world spotlight on Cleveland, but grateful to the Mayor's office for honoring him in this way so that we can acknowledge his contribution to this week."

Tourism: With the RNC expected to draw 50,000 people to Cleveland, TourismOhio is rolling out all the stops to showcase Ohio, according to a press release.

The group is launching a 360 degree "virtual reality experience" during the convention, to capitalize on visitors and showcase various Ohio hotspots.

The experience will be hosted in a 40-passenger bus located outside the Quicken Loans Arena, according to the release, and will "offer a personal Ohio adventure for participants with a wide range of interests." Those not at the event can take part online.

Some of the featured items include Cedar Point, Hocking Hills, parasailing over Lake Erie, and various Cleveland attractions.

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Students largely believe that their colleges and universities would seriously address sexual assault reports and take corrective action against offenders, according to their responses on surveys disseminated by all of the state's public institutions.

The surveys were an integral piece of the Changing Campus Culture initiative, which the Department of Higher Education launched last fall in an effort to encourage best practices in preventing and responding to sexual violence on campuses. (Survey Results)

Chancellor John Carey urged schools to join the voluntary effort and they responded. All of Ohio's public universities and 80% of private institutions participated in the campus climate survey that asked students to give feedback on how they think sexual assault is being handled and whether they know how to file reports.

Michelle Johnston, the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College president who has been the face of the initiative, said she's encouraged by the swell of interest in improving sexual violence policies.

The feedback, she said, will be used to steer the other facets of the \$2-million initiative, which include developing comprehensive response policies, adopting survivor-centered responses, launching awareness campaigns and implementing comprehensive training programs.

"With 100% of our public colleges and universities completing a common survey of our students, we have a clearer picture of where we are, collectively and as unique institutions," she said in a statement. "Using this data, we will thoroughly analyze where we are now and will chart a course for where we want to be, in relation to positive and safe environments on our campuses."

Students who responded to the survey agreed, on average, that the university would take sexual assault reports seriously and would support those making the reports. The average respondent also said the university would take corrective action against offenders and would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.

However, students largely disagreed or were neutral with a survey statement that sexual violence is not a problem on their campuses and responses were mixed on a question of understanding institution policies for addressing complaints.

Less than one-third of students reported they don't know the contact information to get on-campus support for sexual violence despite about 13% of them saying they knew women who had been assaulted on campus.

"As I have shared many times before, numbers don't lie, and in the case of sexual violence on our campuses in Ohio, the numbers tell a story that needs a better ending," Ms. Johnston said of why the initiative was launched in October.

In addition to the aggregate data compiled by ODHE, the agency said campuses also administered more comprehensive surveys that will inform policies specific to individual institutions. All public institutions and 88% of private colleges and universities completed those surveys.

Ohio is one of few states in the country that has collected such data, according to ODHE. Much of the work to complete the surveys was done with the help of grants that were funded with a portion of the \$2 million allocated to the initiative in the biennium budget (HB 64).

The grants are also to be used to support putting best practices in place. The overall budget funding has paid for, among other things, webinars and summits to keep institutions engaged in the initiative and collaborating with one another.

"It's exciting to see Ohio dedicating state resources to collect prevalence data, support survivors and prevent sexual violence on college campuses, and partnering with the coalition and rape crisis centers," said Monika Johnson Hostler, the president of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

"It is through this strategic, long-term investment and the development of partnerships between campuses and community-based programs that we will see long-term positive change for students."

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

The sponsor of public sector right-to-work legislation defends introducing the controversial measure while acknowledging it is likely dead-on-arrival.

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) said legislation (HB 583) that would remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization is good policy that will likely not be well-received in the General Assembly.

"It's something my constituents have been demanding for a long time," he said in an interview. "I think it's good for Ohio and hopefully it will be able to move forward."

But We Are Ohio, which was formed in opposition to similar legislation designed to curtail the collective bargaining power of public sector unions, slammed the proposal, saying that workers in state with similar laws make less money and are more prone to on-the-job injuries.

"We believe right-to-work is wrong for Ohio, for working people, for all of us," spokesman Dennis Willard said in an interview.

"There is no support from working people in this state for this extreme idea."

Asked about the likelihood of the bill becoming law, Rep. Becker said he has "no reason to be optimistic."

"I have no feedback one way or the other, but based on the public comments that the governor has made and based on my feelings of what's going on in the Senate or where they might be, I'm not optimistic," he said.

Gov. John Kasich has said repeatedly that right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda in the wake of the public rebuke over similar legislation (SB5, 129th General Assembly) that was struck down by the state's voters in a labor-backed referendum.

John Fourtney, spokesman for the Senate Majority Caucus, said the measure has yet to be vetted by members. However, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has spoken favorably of eliminating a requirement for union shop employees to pay union dues (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 4, 2013), but has said the support is not there among his members. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 3, 2013)

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), also said the bill will be discussed further among caucus members in the fall.

The fight over Senate Bill 5 galvanized the labor movement, and Rep. Becker acknowledged that the introduction of similar legislation could provide good political fodder for Democrats in an election year.

"I could see that being a drawback. It just gives the Democrats another talking point and a fundraising letter to send out," he said.

However, he said his measure is different from Senate Bill 5 in that it does not address collective bargaining benefits.

"It is simply an opt-out for public sector employees," he said.

Democrats and labor groups have derided right-to-work legislation for allowing those who opt out of paying union dues to still receive the benefits from negotiated terms of contracts. But Rep. Becker said those who opt-out under his legislation would no longer be protected by unions.

"If they run into some kind of trouble with management, they will not be able to look to the union," he said, adding that it is up to management to decide how to deal with the wages and benefits of non-union employees.

Critics have also said that right-to-work legislation is designed to weaken unions both financially and politically. Rep. Becker, however, also downplayed that critique.

"I wouldn't expect a mass exodus from unions if this were to be signed into law," he said. "If there were a significant exit, it would tell me that there's a problem with the unions. If the only way they can maintain their union through a captive audience then they need to be looking in the mirror."

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

A spokesman for the state's largest online charter school is defending the school's refusal to hand over student log-in data requested by the Department of Education.

Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow is not breaking any laws by refusing the data that's at the center of a lawsuit alleging ODE will misuse that information to determine per-pupil funding, school spokesman Neil Clark said.

A Franklin County judge earlier this week denied ECOT's request for a temporary restraining order to stop ODE from moving forward with an audit until after the court rules how student attendance should be used to inform payment totals.

ODE on Monday moved forward with the attendance review, but an email from the agency's attorney to ECOT revealed that the school was refusing to turn over the log-in and log-out information for students.

The agency's attorney Douglas Cole requested access to the documents be immediately provided, but Mr. Clark said that won't be happening.

"We're saying we're not doing anything unless the court tells us to," he said in an interview.

ECOT is interpreting the judge's decision differently than ODE, he said. While it may have allowed the audit to move forward, there is no specification that the review can occur in a way that conflicts with a contract between the school and ODE

The school's lawsuit argues that ODE's decision to not provide funding for students who weren't logging in at least five hours per day is out of line with an agreement that has been in place for previous audits. That contractual agreement states that the school must offer up to 920 hours of learning opportunities - not that students must partake, Mr. Clark said.

"It's just not about did you show up today, it's far more detailed than that; it's how did you get to that 920?" he said.

ODE, meanwhile, is contending that online schools are required by state law to make daily student participation records accessible, regardless of how that information is being used. Mr. Evans said in his email a statute specifying that mandate has been in place since February.

The e-school's governing board was expected to meet Friday - mostly in executive session - to discuss the lawsuit and next steps.

Accreditation: Antioch College this week announced it has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

The independent college had spent the last two years pursuing accreditation after reopening in 2011. Originally founded in 1850, it closed in 2008 amid financial troubles and leaders have since been focused on building the historic institution back up.

President Tom Manley said in a video posted to YouTube that the university can now focus its attention on continuing to build a financial foundation and recruit students.

"This great result comes from the hard work of our faculty, our staff, students, our alumni who have been so incredibly supportive and the leadership of our board of trustees," he said. "It is a ringing endorsement of the quality and strength of the education that Antioch college can now offer, and it is a vote of confidence in our ability to offer that education for years to come. "

The commission's decision is retroactive, meaning the recent graduates in the class of 2016 will receive diplomas from an accredited institution, Antioch reported.

Standards Revisions: Rep. Jack Cera is urging educators and the public to provide feedback on proposed revisions to English and math standards.

The Bellaire Democrat said his constituents have shared frustration with the current common core standards, known as Ohio's Learning Standards, and now is the time to recommend changes.

Through 5 p.m. Aug. 1, ODE is accepting public comments on the proposed revisions that were drafted in response to the work of a task force and an earlier public survey.

"I wanted to take the time to share this opportunity with the people of the 96th District because I have received many questions from teachers, parents and administrators about the education department's new revisions," he said. "This is a perfect opportunity for parents to get involved in the process and voice their questions, comments and concerns with those who create these standards directly."

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In 'Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

The Ohio Democratic Party has thrown its weight behind an effort to ensure that unregistered voters have a small window prior to the presidential election to register and cast a ballot on the same day.

In a brief filed with U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals, the party asks the court to uphold a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act.

"Jon Husted and Mike DeWine continue to waste time and money in court, ignoring the Constitution and clear precedent while attempting to make it harder to vote," Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said in a statement.

"In their appeal, Husted and DeWine blatantly disregard the fact that eliminating an additional week of early voting and same-day registration disproportionately impacted African-American voters. The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

In his ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

In a separate decision, Judge Watson denied a request to stay the ruling for the November presidential election while the decision is appealed.

ODP is now accusing Secretary of State Jon Husted of failing to heed the ruling by not providing accurate information for voters about the start of early voting on his office's website.

"Jon Husted has a long history of blatantly ignoring court decisions that have rebuked his attacks on Ohioans' voting rights, and his refusal, once again, to provide accurate information about early voting is plainly designed to mislead Ohioans about their voting rights," Mr. Pepper said.

"If he won't relent and update the misleading information his office is providing, we will take action to ensure he follows the court order restoring 'Golden Week.' The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

Husted spokesman Josh Eck said the website won't be changed while the case is under appeal.

"The ruling was stayed for the upcoming August Special Election and is currently on appeal ahead of the November election. It would be irresponsible for the Secretary to begin advertising changes that may very well have to undergo further changes before the General Election, as they did in 2012," he said.

"Secretary Husted is committed to making sure all voters know the rules and can participate and we welcome others to join us in pursuing clarity over chaos."

Eminent Domain: The 1851 Center for Constitutional Law has asked the Wood County Common Pleas Court to dismiss more than a dozen eminent domain cases filed by a Texas pipeline company.

The group said in a court filing that Kinder Morgan's eminent domain action against 15 families in the Bowling Green area violates Ohio's constitution because the project for which it is seeking the land is not a "public necessity."

The land would be used for the "Utopia Pipeline," a private ethane pipeline running underground to a Canadian plastics factory.

"Imagine that a private sector lawyer desired to get to the Wood County Court of Common Pleas faster. Could he forcibly appropriate others' private land along the route, from his front door step to the court's parking lot to build a personal road, with no on-ramps or exits, and twenty foot walls on either side, just to represent one very wealthy client who anticipated routinely using his services?" the filing reads.

"If the answer is 'no,' then it must be here as well. And it is 'no,' because no such road would be a public use, even if the lawyer appealed to the public interest in 'justice' and 'market demand for lawyers.'"

Maurice Thompson, the group's executive director, said in a statement the proposed eminent domain action is "redistribution of wealth of the worst sort."

"The abuse along the Utopia Pipeline is a prime example of what can happen when legislators attempt to auction off Ohioans' property rights to the highest bidder," he said. "Ultimately, the Ohio Constitution prevents this abuse, and we will prevail in court. But statutes inviting this sort of behavior should be amended or repealed."

Honor: A long-time employee of the Ohio Judicial College has been nationally recognized for his work, the high court reported.

Kristopher Steele, an education program manager, received the 2016 Perkins Award from the National Association for Court Management

"It's because of employees like Kristopher that the Supreme Court has an outstanding reputation nationally," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in a statement. "I have received multiple compliments about the Judicial College programs and our staff from my colleagues when attending national meetings."

"I am honored to win this award and will accept it on behalf of all the other dedicated personnel working behind the scenes at courts to help improve services to their communities," Mr. Steele said.

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Friday announced that 29 rape crisis centers across the state will receive more than \$1.4 million in grant funding.

"We owe it to survivors of sexual assault to make sure they receive comprehensive support after an attack," AG DeWine said. "These funds will go toward helping agencies across the state to provide quality, compassionate care to those who need it."

The following 28 agencies will all receive \$45,803:

- Abuse and Rape Crisis Center of Warren County
- Alive, Inc., Steubenville
- Appleseed Community Mental Health Center, Ashland
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Stark County
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Tuscarawas County
- Compass Family and Community Services, Youngstown
- Council on Domestic Violence/Open Arms, Findlay
- Crime Victim Services, Lima
- Edna Brooks Foundation/My Sister's Place, Athens
- Erie County Prosecutor
- Eve, Inc., Marietta
- Haven of Hope, Cambridge
- Helpline of Delaware and Morrow Counties
- Highland County Domestic Violence Task Force
- Lake County Prosecutor
- New Directions, Mt. Vernon
- OneEighty, Wayne County

- Project Woman, Springfield
- Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties
- Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio
- The Cocoon, Bowling Green
- The Domestic Violence Shelter, Mansfield
- The Nord Center, Lorain
- Townhall II, Kent
- Tri-County Help Center, St. Clairsville
- Women Helping Women, Cincinnati
- YWCA of Northwest Ohio, Toledo

Another \$142,500 will be distributed to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

BWC: As the Bureau of Workers' Compensation transitions to prospective billing, it is asking private employers to report their actual payroll for the policy year ended June 30 and to reconcile any differences in premium paid prior to the closure of the "True-up" window on Aug. 15.

Employers will be removed from their current rating plan or discount program if it BWC does not receive a payroll true-up by the due date. Outstanding payroll true-ups will render the employer ineligible for participation in future rating plans or discount programs until all outstanding payroll true-ups are complete.

"This step is an important part of BWC's ongoing efforts to modernize operations and provide better service to Ohio's employers," BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison said in a statement. "It's also necessary for BWC to accurately calculate an employer's premium and for employers to maintain their participation in current rating plan or discount programs."

The transition, according to BWC, has allowed it to reduce base rates and offer employers more flexible payment options and the ability to better forecast their costs.

True-ups can be completed online and if done through the web qualifies eligible employers for a 1% premium rebate, up to a \$2,000 maximum.

The payroll true-up may also be completed through the call center at 1-800-644-6292.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced 8,480 new state business filings in June. The figure represents an increase over the same period on 2015, when 8,151 entities were formed.

June was again a record setting month for business filing; 4,300 more entities have filed so far in 2016 than at the same point in 2015.

New filings increased 21.8% from 2010-2015.

Department of Natural Resources: A total of 2,192 permits have been issued for drilling on the Utica Shale as of July 9, according to data from the Division of Oil and Gas Resources.

A total of 1,756 wells have been drilled, and 1,334 wells are in production, according to the ODNR.

The department also announced that Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor attended the opening ceremonies for the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship at the Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo.

PUCO: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is remind consumers that that they may be eligible for budget billing.

The program, offered by Ohio's regulated electric and natural gas distribution companies, allows consumers to avoid spikes in billion in the summer and winter months.

General Assembly: Legislative staff and members of the Senate collected more than 33,000 pounds of canned food for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

The internal food drive also generated \$3,000 in donations, which will provide 39,500 meals to local residents.

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

Ohio's senators this week applauded the confirmation of Carole Rendon as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) recommended Ms. Rendon, a former first assistant U.S. attorney, for the post last month.

"No one is more qualified to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District than Carole Rendon," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "Now that she is confirmed she can continue her work on behalf of Ohioans."

Sen. Portman said, "Carole Rendon is a proud Ohioan, an accomplished lawyer, and a dedicated public servant. She has already served Ohio with distinction for seven years, and I'm pleased that she will continue as U.S. Attorney for Northern Ohio. I am grateful to my colleagues for making the right decision and confirming her nomination."

Border: Sen. Brown urged customs and border protection to launch an investigation into produce made using child and forced labor.

Joining with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), he wrote to CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske decrying a loophole that allows some of those products into the country if there is not a sufficient supply.

"We urge you to continue that dialogue with regular meetings between NGOs, as well as other stakeholders, and CBP, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the State Department, and the Department of Labor and a meeting in the very near term to discuss issues related to regulations. Increased communication will lead to more successful petitions and better enforcement against forced labor imports," the senators wrote.

Funding: U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) applauded several instances of new funding awarded to her district this week.

First she welcomed news of a \$700 million retooling of Toledo's Jeep North Assembly Plant.

The project, which will equip the plant for production of the next generation of Jeep Wrangler, was announced this week by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and promises 700 new jobs.

"This is almost beyond belief, given where we were eight short years ago," Rep. Kaptur said. "For seventy-five years Toledans have manufactured Wranglers. FCA's investment today will ensure this legacy remains for years to come."

The Cleveland Hopkins International Airport will also receive \$22.1 million in federal funds for improvements including safety upgrades and new snow removal equipment.

Lastly, Rep. Kaptur announced the award of a \$3.1 million grant to the Lorain Fire Department and the city of Lorain aimed at addressing a staffing crisis.

The funds, from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program, aim to fix the fallout of the recent layoffs of 22 members of the city's fire department.

"This is obviously great news," Rep. Kaptur said. "Credit should go to the Lorain firefighters, who have actively organized in recent weeks and made their case effectively and persuasively, and to Lorain Mayor Chase Ritenauer and Lorain Fire Chief Tom Brown. Their diligence in helping to find a solution brought about this two-year solution to an immediate problem."

Zika: U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs and colleagues urged President Barack Obama to expand protections against the Zika virus. The Obama Administration has opposed a resolution that would permit mosquito control programs to implement control plans without duplicative permits, Rep. Gibbs said.

"I want to know why it is acceptable for Puerto Rico to increase their defense against Zika, but not the rest of the United States?" Rep. Gibbs asked in a statement. "All Americans should be protected against the spread of Zika and I encourage the president to change his mind and allow the increased use of live-saving pesticides and give pregnant women safety from this terrible illness. If the President ends his opposition to the Conference report, Congress can take swift action to protect those most vulnerable to Zika."

An amendment on Zika from U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles), meanwhile, failed with a 20-29 committee vote. It would have stricken a funding cap of \$461 million on bilateral family planning and created a funding floor of \$585 million to administer anti-Zika programs.

"I am deeply disappointed that House Republicans rejected this amendment and have decided to turn their back on thousands of men and women struggling through this crisis," Rep. Ryan said.

Abortions: Rep. Gibbs applauded the House passage of legislation aimed at protecting health care professionals who refuse to participate in providing abortions.

The lawmaker supported the bill, saying it protects the religious freedom of those professionals.

"The House's vote today gives those willing to exercise their beliefs the option of using the court system if their employment is in jeopardy, instead of being at the mercy of a government bureaucracy," he said. "It is critical that we not only protect the unborn, but protect those whose livelihoods may be at stake for providing that protection."

Trade: An amendment from Rep. Ryan that would require an impact analysis on free trade agreements on wages and the demand for educator workers passed a House committee this week by voice vote.

The amendment is to a measure that would require the Bureau of Labor Statistics to submit a report on the impact of such agreements on the American workforce.

"All that you need to do is look at the shuttered factories and shattered communities across Ohio to see the devastating affect free trade agreements have had across our country," he said. "I am proud that my amendment passed and we will soon be able to know the true cost of these deals to our nation," Mr. Ryan said.

Israel: Sen. Portman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) released a bipartisan report from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations examining government grants to OneVoice, which is a non-governmental organization in Israel and Palestine.

The report examines the nearly \$350,000 in grants received from the State Department to foster peace between the two countries. The report determined the NGO complied with the department's terms but shortly after the terms expired used the funds to support a political campaign.

"The State Department ignored warnings signs and funded a politically active group in a politically sensitive environment with inadequate safeguards," Sen. Portman said. "It is completely unacceptable that U.S. taxpayer dollars were used to build a political campaign infrastructure that was deployed - immediately after the grant ended - against the leader of our closest ally in the Middle East. American resources should be used to help our allies in the region, not undermine them."

SNAP: Rep. Ryan this week sought to push for increased digital access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"If we continue on our current trajectory, we will have an adult obesity rate of 60% within 15 years," he said. "In a country, where 23.5 million people live in food deserts, we cannot allow the status quo to continue and must find new ways for all Americans to have access to fresh, healthy food."

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Gongwer News Service's planned coverage of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland next week will include regular updates to the website during the day.

Significant breaking news will be distributed through email alerts but subscribers can check the website throughout each day of the convention for updates focusing on activities of the Ohio delegation and other events.

Subscribers may also follow reporter Mikel Livingston and Gongwer on Twitter for links to those updates on our website. Mike's account is @mikellivingston and the main account is @gongwer.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-023, Requested by Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney Gregg Marx.
SYLLABUS:

1. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by Violet Township may provide medical services in nonemergency situations pursuant to R.C. 4765.361, so long as the medical services are performed under the direction of the emergency medical technician's medical director or cooperating physician advisory

board, are within the scope of practice of the emergency medical technician, and do not conflict with the emergency medical services described in R.C. 4765.37, R.C. 4765.38, R.C. 4765.39, and the rules adopted by the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services.

2. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township is immune from civil liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property resulting from the provision of medical services in a nonemergency situation unless the services are provided in a manner that constitutes wanton or willful misconduct, the services are manifestly outside the scope of the emergency medical technician's employment, or the services are performed with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner.

3. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township may not provide medical services on a routine, day-to-day basis outside the boundaries of the township when revenue from a township tax levy pays the emergency medical technician's compensation, unless the township has entered into a contract with another political subdivision pursuant to R.C. 9.60 or R.C. 505.44, or the township provides the medical services to the territory of another township or municipal corporation as a member of a joint fire district pursuant to R.C. 505.371, a fire and ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.375, or a joint ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.71.

4. A board of township trustees may establish reasonable charges for the use of medical services that are provided by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township in nonemergency situations and may collect those charges from a private hospital system that agrees to pay those charges on behalf of the recipient of the medical services.

5. A board of township trustees may contract with a private hospital system to provide medical services in nonemergency situations by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township to patients of the hospital who are residents and nonresidents of the township, so long as the private hospital system is a nonprofit corporation and the medical services are performed within the territory of the township.

6. A contract between the Violet Township Board of Trustees and a private hospital system for the provision of medical services in nonemergency situations may provide that the private hospital system will pay the township a sum of money for each visit performed by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic pursuant to the contract and that emergency medical technicians will provide medical services in nonemergency situations during the emergency medical technicians' regular work hours.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, July 20

Rail Development Commission, 1980 West Broad Street, Rm. GA, Columbus, 11 a.m.

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 3 p.m. (Dropout Prevention and Recovery Study Committee)

Thursday, July 21

Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)

Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27

Beginning of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, August 7

End of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, October 2

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$50 per Family | \$25 per Person to Peterson for Good Government)

Thursday, October 20

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1000 Event Sponsor, includes up to 6 participants; \$500 Lane Sponsor, includes up to 4 participants; \$150 per couple | \$100 per person | \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 16-Monday, July 18

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention luncheon, Westin, 21 E. Fifth St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Featuring U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee)
Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.
Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention dinner gala, Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., (Featuring Vernon Jordan)

Monday, July 18

Republican National Convention, Cleveland

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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 5:45 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, July 15, 2016
Attachments: Jul15.htm; 160715dayplan.htm



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Ohio Report for Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In = 2Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

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Day Planner

Event Planner

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Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

A Senate leader said lawmakers may not act on the soon-to-end freeze on renewable energy and energy efficiency standards until sometime next year.

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina), the Senate's president pro tem and likely next chamber leader, said in an interview this week he advocates for an "all the above approach" to rethinking the mandates that were frozen in 2014 and are set to kick back in at the end of this year without legislative action.

But such an undertaking might not be easier considering the limited number of session days scheduled this fall, he said. The Senate is scheduled to return in late September with at most 21 days set for work in committees, and much fewer days anticipated for full sessions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2016) The House, meanwhile, is set to reconvene after the November election with at most eight full session days.

"I think that's a pretty big issue and if there's not that many session days it remains to be seen whether that'll be tackled in that amount of time," Sen. Obhof said. "I definitely think moving forward whether it's at the end of this year or at the beginning of the next General Assembly we need to come up with a comprehensive and consistent policy on energy."

By not acting by Dec. 31, the freeze would thaw, allowing the standards to kick back into effect, which Republicans argue could harm Ohio considering lingering uncertainty over the federal Clean Power Plan and other unknowns. Proponents of the standards say any effort to extend the freeze or lower the standards would take the state backward.

There are currently three bills pending in either chamber with different approaches. A bill from Sen. Bill Seitz (SB 320) would extend the freeze until 2019, while a bill from Rep. Ron Amstutz (HB 554) would extend the freeze indefinitely. A third bill (SB 325), from Sen. Kris Jordan, would abolish the mandates completely. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 11, 2016)

If none of those bills pass by the end of the 131st General Assembly, the legislative slate will be wiped clean and a new bill would need to be authored to tackle the issue next year.

Sen. Obhof said that even if lawmakers act on the freeze, he believes more comprehensive action would be needed in the next General Assembly.

"I think there will be some kind of action in the next 12 to 18 months regardless of whether the freeze is extended or not," Sen. Obhof said. "I don't know if there is any

science supporting the current numbers and mandates in law. I think we need to have a fact-based approach, one that has room for all the natural resources available."

The pending end of the freeze is one of the reasons cited by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) as a reason for more Republican scrutiny of Gov. John Kasich's recent appointee to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Democratic attorney Howard Petricoff on Tuesday faced his first hearing before the Sen. Seitz's Senate Public Utilities Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 12, 2016)

"I believe we're at a unique crossroads caused by a fairly simultaneous convergence of numerous complex issues," Sen. Seitz said. "I think we all need to make an effort to understand each other on these issues and of course no one is more central to that vortex than the five members of the PUCO."

Other uncertainties he cited include ongoing rehearings of proposed Power Purchase Agreements from AEP and FirstEnergy, the departure of former PUCO Chairman Andre Porter, and the ongoing federal court case over the legality of the Clean Power Plan.

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

In one of the first significant rhetorical volleys in this legislative campaign cycle, the rising controversy over funding and student attendance at the state's largest online charter school is a point of contention in the race for the open 16th Senate District.

Democrat Cathy Johnson, a teacher looking to upset favored Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) in the right-leaning western Franklin County seat, fired the initial salvo this week in criticizing the Republican over issues related to the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

Her criticisms were dismissed by Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee, who described the Democrat's statements as "misguided to say the least" and defended the Republican's positions on and support for education.

The race for the seat being vacated by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) is one of only a handful in the Senate this year that's expected to be even marginally competitive thanks to the GOP-led reapportionment process. It has trended Republican for several years, but Democrats are hoping that with a polarizing candidate atop the GOP ticket they can make hay in legislative races this fall.

ECOT is currently locked in a legal battle with the Ohio Department of Education over attendance records, with a looming audit having the potential to strip millions of funding from the online charter founded by Bill Lager. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 11, 2016)

Ms. Johnson in a campaign release "announced her support" for ODE's attempts to examine ECOT's records and said Rep. Kunze voted "against measures to hold e-

schools accountable in 2015" and "has accepted \$33,000 from ECOT's founder, Bill Lager, over the past four years."

"As a mother, teacher and taxpayer, I am astonished by the deceptive tactics of this taxpayer-funded e-school," Ms. Johnson said. "It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance."

The Democrat said Ms. Kunze "voted with Republicans to block amendments that would have required annual audits for charter school operators, clarified that records of all charter school operators are public records and given the public more access to information on charter school board members and meeting times."

"It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance," Ms. Johnson added. "Instead, she chose to accept donations from ECOT's founder. We need a State Senator who is dedicated to fighting for students and families. Anyone can say yes to special interests with deep pockets."

Sen. Burke questioned the focus of Ms. Johnson's assertions, saying Rep. Kunze has a record that belies such criticisms.

"Stephanie Kunze has a record of supporting both public education and parent choice," he said. "I would also say that both traditional public education and charter schools and ECOT schools, etc. are all in need of improvement beyond a shadow of a doubt and that is what we're working on."

To that end, Sen. Burke said, Ms. Kunze was a cosponsor of HB 2, which he described as "the largest reform bill dealing with non-traditional public schools." As the legislature continues to look for improvements to all kinds of public schools, he added, "she is obviously supportive of that."

"I would say, unlike Ms. Johnson's statement, that rather than have a singular source of education, that Stephanie believes parents should have a choice. The competition within that market drives improvement, so in order for public schools to get better, parents should have a choice."

The Republican said some of the tabled budget amendments the Democrat is apparently referring to "would have basically eliminated parent choice."

Sen. Burke also pushed back on the suggestion of a quid pro quo involving campaign donations.

"I imagine Stephanie Kunze, like me, accepts money from a lot of people," he said. "I've taken money from Bill Lager. I also was a direct cosponsor of (Sen. Peggy Lehner's) bill to reform ECOT and charter schools from day one."

"I guess the inverse question there would be, 'If the (Ohio Education Association) paid money to Stephanie Kunze, do you think she'd change?' I'm guessing probably not."

The debate over ECOT escalated considerably in recent weeks as ODE moved forward with plans to review the schools attendance records. In the latest twist, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported Thursday that ECOT is refusing to release some of the requested data.

As election season progresses, Democrats have increasingly pointed to the majority GOP's ties to ECOT, which has been at the forefront of the Republican-led expansion of the charter industry in the state.

Carrying forward the support of his predecessor, Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) spoke at this year's ECOT graduation ceremony, which in the past has been attended by other prominent Republican officeholders.

The Ohio Democratic Party recently called for a moratorium on state funding to ECOT and a larger investigation into the state's charter school system, stating: "Last year as the Ohio General Assembly considered a bill to reform charter schools, Lager gave nearly \$150,000 to 21 Ohio Republican legislators over the course of two months."

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Donald Trump on Friday became the first presumptive nominee to announce his vice presidential pick via Twitter.

As expected, Mr. Trump confirmed he has tabbed Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate in a tweet shortly before 11 a.m.

Mr. Trump had previously announced he was postponing the New York City press conference where he was expected to make the announcement following a mass killing in Nice, France.

But Gov. Pence faced a noon deadline Friday by which to withdraw from his gubernatorial reelection bid in order for the Indiana Republican Party to name a replacement candidate, meaning the news would have been confirmed then even without an announcement from the Trump campaign.

The formal news conference will now take place at 11 a.m. Saturday in New Jersey.

Word broke Thursday that the first term Indiana governor and former congressman was to be Mr. Trump's No. 2.

Gov. Pence has been engaged in a gubernatorial rematch with Democrat John Gregg - a race that's taken on a new element of competitiveness following Republican discontent over Mr. Pence's handling of last year's so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Mr. Pence, well thought of in religious conservative circles, is seen as an attempt by Mr. Trump to appeal to that voter bloc and to create inroads with Congress, where Gov. Pence served from 2001-2013.

The campaign of DNC presumptive nominee Hillary Clinton immediately blasted the pick in a statement, calling it the "most extreme VP pick in a generation."

Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta criticized the governor for defunding Planned Parenthood, advocating early on for the Tea Party movement, and signing a religious freedom law that opponents say legalized discrimination against LGBT citizens.

"By picking Mike Pence as his running mate, Donald Trump has doubled down on some of his most disturbing beliefs by choosing an incredibly divisive and unpopular running mate known for supporting discriminatory politics and failed economic policies that favor millionaires and corporations over working families," Mr. Podesta said.

The campaign then promptly organized a media call featuring allied groups criticizing the Republican ticket.

Rules Committee: GOP leaders and Trump loyalists thwarted plans to undermine Mr. Trump's candidacy during a closely watched RNC Rules Committee meeting Thursday.

The morning meeting was delayed several hours while party leaders attempted to negotiate with members of the "Never Trump" movement, but talks soon fell apart. Those members had hoped to change rules to permit delegates to vote their conscience, thereby freeing bound delegates to vote against Mr. Trump on the first ballot.

But as the day wore on it became clear the anti-Trump contingent had too little support for success and lacked the required votes to create a minority report that would have ensured debate on the issue before the full convention next week. Amendment author Kendal Unruh said she would still attempt to earn the required 28 signatures for a minority report.

Following much debate, delegates also shot down a proposed amendment that would have barred lobbyists from being members of the RNC - a change Ohio delegate and lobbyist JoAnn Davidson strongly criticized in remarks before the body.

The committee, which had planned to meet Friday, eventually finished the agenda late Thursday and adjourned. The rules package will be sent to the full convention Monday for consideration.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said the meeting "made clear the high level of unity within our Party."

"Grassroots voices from every state and territory have crafted a set of rules which will keep our party strong at the local, state, and national level, and we honored the spirit of democracy by conducting our Rules Committee meeting in a completely open and transparent fashion," he said.

Schedule: The RNC had not yet released an official schedule of events for convention week in Cleveland as of midday Friday, just two days before the RNC is schedule to kickoff.

But Ohio leaders and others have already announced a slew of ancillary events timed to capitalize on the convention crowd.

The Ohio Republican Party will host daily 8 a.m. breakfasts featuring Treasurer Josh Mandel and U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton (Monday); U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson and Frank Luntz (Tuesday); U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi and House Speaker Paul Ryan (Wednesday); and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (Thursday).

The ORP already announced a 3:30 p.m. Tuesday event at the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame to honor Gov. John Kasich.

A sampling of other events during the course of the week includes:

- Sunday - a "Taste of Little Italy" event featuring Attorney General Mike DeWine at 3 p.m. at Tony Brush Park
- Monday - a 3 p.m. campaign event in which Sen. Rob Portman, former Speaker Newt Gingrich and Sen. Joni Ernst will address Sen. Portman volunteers at the Tri-C Metropolitan Campus
- Tuesday, a 10:15 a.m. reception for media members with Sen. Rob Portman; and 11 a.m. welcome tea hosted by the Ohio Federation of Republican Women at the Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square featuring U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)

A partial list of convention speakers was officially released Thursday, although the time and dates of the speeches have yet to be announced by the RNC.

In contrast, the Democratic National Convention Committee announced Friday the headline speakers for the DNC in Philadelphia later this month. They include First Lady Michelle Obama and Sen. Bernie Sanders July 25, President Bill Clinton July 26, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden July 27, and Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton July 28.

A series of musical acts will perform each day of the RNC at Freedom Plaza, which will also include drinks and food. For a complete list, visit the RNC's website. An evening

concert, featuring a variety of "American Idol" and "The Voice" winners will take place at 11 p.m. Tuesday at Gray's Armory.

The Clinton campaign and the DNC, meanwhile, are organizing their own counter events in Cleveland with a slew of press conferences and conference calls aimed at undercutting the RNC. Former Gov. Ted Strickland and the Ohio Democratic Party will also ramp up their attacks on U.S. Sen. Rob Portman as they seek to link him to Mr. Trump.

Other groups have scheduled their own events to criticize Republicans. The Ohio AFL-CIO is set to "welcome" Republicans to the city during a 2 p.m. Sunday event featuring former Gov. Ted Strickland at the Laborers' Local 310 Hall.

ProgressOhio has created a calendar of counter events that includes a "Daily Show" convention sideshow, League of Women Voters voter registration drives, and daily nonviolence training for protestors.

Bob Bennett: The City of Cleveland granted a secondary street name to the intersection of Ontario Street and Huron Road for the duration of the convention. The intersection will be known as Bob Bennett Way in honor of former ORP chairman.

"More than any one person, Bob Bennett steadfastly sought to bring the Convention to Cleveland," Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges said. "We are sad that he is not here to see the world spotlight on Cleveland, but grateful to the Mayor's office for honoring him in this way so that we can acknowledge his contribution to this week."

Tourism: With the RNC expected to draw 50,000 people to Cleveland, TourismOhio is rolling out all the stops to showcase Ohio, according to a press release.

The group is launching a 360 degree "virtual reality experience" during the convention, to capitalize on visitors and showcase various Ohio hotspots.

The experience will be hosted in a 40-passenger bus located outside the Quicken Loans Arena, according to the release, and will "offer a personal Ohio adventure for participants with a wide range of interests." Those not at the event can take part online.

Some of the featured items include Cedar Point, Hocking Hills, parasailing over Lake Erie, and various Cleveland attractions.

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Students largely believe that their colleges and universities would seriously address sexual assault reports and take corrective action against offenders, according to their responses on surveys disseminated by all of the state's public institutions.

The surveys were an integral piece of the Changing Campus Culture initiative, which the Department of Higher Education launched last fall in an effort to encourage best practices in preventing and responding to sexual violence on campuses. (Survey Results)

Chancellor John Carey urged schools to join the voluntary effort and they responded. All of Ohio's public universities and 80% of private institutions participated in the campus climate survey that asked students to give feedback on how they think sexual assault is being handled and whether they know how to file reports.

Michelle Johnston, the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College president who has been the face of the initiative, said she's encouraged by the swell of interest in improving sexual violence policies.

The feedback, she said, will be used to steer the other facets of the \$2-million initiative, which include developing comprehensive response policies, adopting survivor-centered responses, launching awareness campaigns and implementing comprehensive training programs.

"With 100% of our public colleges and universities completing a common survey of our students, we have a clearer picture of where we are, collectively and as unique institutions," she said in a statement. "Using this data, we will thoroughly analyze where we are now and will chart a course for where we want to be, in relation to positive and safe environments on our campuses."

Students who responded to the survey agreed, on average, that the university would take sexual assault reports seriously and would support those making the reports. The average respondent also said the university would take corrective action against offenders and would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.

However, students largely disagreed or were neutral with a survey statement that sexual violence is not a problem on their campuses and responses were mixed on a question of understanding institution policies for addressing complaints.

Less than one-third of students reported they don't know the contact information to get on-campus support for sexual violence despite about 13% of them saying they knew women who had been assaulted on campus.

"As I have shared many times before, numbers don't lie, and in the case of sexual violence on our campuses in Ohio, the numbers tell a story that needs a better ending," Ms. Johnston said of why the initiative was launched in October.

In addition to the aggregate data compiled by ODHE, the agency said campuses also administered more comprehensive surveys that will inform policies specific to individual institutions. All public institutions and 88% of private colleges and universities completed those surveys.

Ohio is one of few states in the country that has collected such data, according to ODHE. Much of the work to complete the surveys was done with the help of grants that were funded with a portion of the \$2 million allocated to the initiative in the biennium budget (HB 64).

The grants are also to be used to support putting best practices in place. The overall budget funding has paid for, among other things, webinars and summits to keep institutions engaged in the initiative and collaborating with one another.

"It's exciting to see Ohio dedicating state resources to collect prevalence data, support survivors and prevent sexual violence on college campuses, and partnering with the coalition and rape crisis centers," said Monika Johnson Hostler, the president of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

"It is through this strategic, long-term investment and the development of partnerships between campuses and community-based programs that we will see long-term positive change for students."

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

The sponsor of public sector right-to-work legislation defends introducing the controversial measure while acknowledging it is likely dead-on-arrival.

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) said legislation (HB 583) that would remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization is good policy that will likely not be well-received in the General Assembly.

"It's something my constituents have been demanding for a long time," he said in an interview. "I think it's good for Ohio and hopefully it will be able to move forward."

But We Are Ohio, which was formed in opposition to similar legislation designed to curtail the collective bargaining power of public sector unions, slammed the proposal, saying that workers in state with similar laws make less money and are more prone to on-the-job injuries.

"We believe right-to-work is wrong for Ohio, for working people, for all of us," spokesman Dennis Willard said in an interview.

"There is no support from working people in this state for this extreme idea."

Asked about the likelihood of the bill becoming law, Rep. Becker said he has "no reason to be optimistic."

"I have no feedback one way or the other, but based on the public comments that the governor has made and based on my feelings of what's going on in the Senate or where they might be, I'm not optimistic," he said.

Gov. John Kasich has said repeatedly that right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda in the wake of the public rebuke over similar legislation (SB5, 129th General Assembly) that was struck down by the state's voters in a labor-backed referendum.

John Fourtney, spokesman for the Senate Majority Caucus, said the measure has yet to be vetted by members. However, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has spoken favorably of eliminating a requirement for union shop employees to pay union dues (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 4, 2013), but has said the support is not there among his members. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 3, 2013)

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), also said the bill will be discussed further among caucus members in the fall.

The fight over Senate Bill 5 galvanized the labor movement, and Rep. Becker acknowledged that the introduction of similar legislation could provide good political fodder for Democrats in an election year.

"I could see that being a drawback. It just gives the Democrats another talking point and a fundraising letter to send out," he said.

However, he said his measure is different from Senate Bill 5 in that it does not address collective bargaining benefits.

"It is simply an opt-out for public sector employees," he said.

Democrats and labor groups have derided right-to-work legislation for allowing those who opt out of paying union dues to still receive the benefits from negotiated terms of contracts. But Rep. Becker said those who opt-out under his legislation would no longer be protected by unions.

"If they run into some kind of trouble with management, they will not be able to look to the union," he said, adding that it is up to management to decide how to deal with the wages and benefits of non-union employees.

Critics have also said that right-to-work legislation is designed to weaken unions both financially and politically. Rep. Becker, however, also downplayed that critique.

"I wouldn't expect a mass exodus from unions if this were to be signed into law," he said. "If there were a significant exit, it would tell me that there's a problem with the unions. If the only way they can maintain their union through a captive audience then they need to be looking in the mirror."

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

A spokesman for the state's largest online charter school is defending the school's refusal to hand over student log-in data requested by the Department of Education.

Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow is not breaking any laws by refusing the data that's at the center of a lawsuit alleging ODE will misuse that information to determine per-pupil funding, school spokesman Neil Clark said.

A Franklin County judge earlier this week denied ECOT's request for a temporary restraining order to stop ODE from moving forward with an audit until after the court rules how student attendance should be used to inform payment totals.

ODE on Monday moved forward with the attendance review, but an email from the agency's attorney to ECOT revealed that the school was refusing to turn over the log-in and log-out information for students.

The agency's attorney Douglas Cole requested access to the documents be immediately provided, but Mr. Clark said that won't be happening.

"We're saying we're not doing anything unless the court tells us to," he said in an interview.

ECOT is interpreting the judge's decision differently than ODE, he said. While it may have allowed the audit to move forward, there is no specification that the review can occur in a way that conflicts with a contract between the school and ODE

The school's lawsuit argues that ODE's decision to not provide funding for students who weren't logging in at least five hours per day is out of line with an agreement that has been in place for previous audits. That contractual agreement states that the school must offer up to 920 hours of learning opportunities - not that students must partake, Mr. Clark said.

"It's just not about did you show up today, it's far more detailed than that; it's how did you get to that 920?" he said.

ODE, meanwhile, is contending that online schools are required by state law to make daily student participation records accessible, regardless of how that information is being used. Mr. Evans said in his email a statute specifying that mandate has been in place since February.

The e-school's governing board was expected to meet Friday - mostly in executive session - to discuss the lawsuit and next steps.

Accreditation: Antioch College this week announced it has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

The independent college had spent the last two years pursuing accreditation after reopening in 2011. Originally founded in 1850, it closed in 2008 amid financial troubles and leaders have since been focused on building the historic institution back up.

President Tom Manley said in a video posted to YouTube that the university can now focus its attention on continuing to build a financial foundation and recruit students.

"This great result comes from the hard work of our faculty, our staff, students, our alumni who have been so incredibly supportive and the leadership of our board of trustees," he said. "It is a ringing endorsement of the quality and strength of the education that Antioch college can now offer, and it is a vote of confidence in our ability to offer that education for years to come. "

The commission's decision is retroactive, meaning the recent graduates in the class of 2016 will receive diplomas from an accredited institution, Antioch reported.

Standards Revisions: Rep. Jack Cera is urging educators and the public to provide feedback on proposed revisions to English and math standards.

The Bellaire Democrat said his constituents have shared frustration with the current common core standards, known as Ohio's Learning Standards, and now is the time to recommend changes.

Through 5 p.m. Aug. 1, ODE is accepting public comments on the proposed revisions that were drafted in response to the work of a task force and an earlier public survey.

"I wanted to take the time to share this opportunity with the people of the 96th District because I have received many questions from teachers, parents and administrators about the education department's new revisions," he said. "This is a perfect opportunity for parents to get involved in the process and voice their questions, comments and concerns with those who create these standards directly."

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In 'Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

The Ohio Democratic Party has thrown its weight behind an effort to ensure that unregistered voters have a small window prior to the presidential election to register and cast a ballot on the same day.

In a brief filed with U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals, the party asks the court to uphold a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act.

"Jon Husted and Mike DeWine continue to waste time and money in court, ignoring the Constitution and clear precedent while attempting to make it harder to vote," Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said in a statement.

"In their appeal, Husted and DeWine blatantly disregard the fact that eliminating an additional week of early voting and same-day registration disproportionately impacted African-American voters. The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

In his ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

In a separate decision, Judge Watson denied a request to stay the ruling for the November presidential election while the decision is appealed.

ODP is now accusing Secretary of State Jon Husted of failing to heed the ruling by not providing accurate information for voters about the start of early voting on his office's website.

"Jon Husted has a long history of blatantly ignoring court decisions that have rebuked his attacks on Ohioans' voting rights, and his refusal, once again, to provide accurate information about early voting is plainly designed to mislead Ohioans about their voting rights," Mr. Pepper said.

"If he won't relent and update the misleading information his office is providing, we will take action to ensure he follows the court order restoring 'Golden Week.' The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

Husted spokesman Josh Eck said the website won't be changed while the case is under appeal.

"The ruling was stayed for the upcoming August Special Election and is currently on appeal ahead of the November election. It would be irresponsible for the Secretary to begin advertising changes that may very well have to undergo further changes before the General Election, as they did in 2012," he said.

"Secretary Husted is committed to making sure all voters know the rules and can participate and we welcome others to join us in pursuing clarity over chaos."

Eminent Domain: The 1851 Center for Constitutional Law has asked the Wood County Common Pleas Court to dismiss more than a dozen eminent domain cases filed by a Texas pipeline company.

The group said in a court filing that Kinder Morgan's eminent domain action against 15 families in the Bowling Green area violates Ohio's constitution because the project for which it is seeking the land is not a "public necessity."

The land would be used for the "Utopia Pipeline," a private ethane pipeline running underground to a Canadian plastics factory.

"Imagine that a private sector lawyer desired to get to the Wood County Court of Common Pleas faster. Could he forcibly appropriate others' private land along the route, from his front door step to the court's parking lot to build a personal road, with no on-ramps or exits, and twenty foot walls on either side, just to represent one very wealthy client who anticipated routinely using his services?" the filing reads.

"If the answer is 'no,' then it must be here as well. And it is 'no,' because no such road would be a public use, even if the lawyer appealed to the public interest in 'justice' and 'market demand for lawyers.'"

Maurice Thompson, the group's executive director, said in a statement the proposed eminent domain action is "redistribution of wealth of the worst sort."

"The abuse along the Utopia Pipeline is a prime example of what can happen when legislators attempt to auction off Ohioans' property rights to the highest bidder," he said. "Ultimately, the Ohio Constitution prevents this abuse, and we will prevail in court. But statutes inviting this sort of behavior should be amended or repealed."

Honor: A long-time employee of the Ohio Judicial College has been nationally recognized for his work, the high court reported.

Kristopher Steele, an education program manager, received the 2016 Perkins Award from the National Association for Court Management

"It's because of employees like Kristopher that the Supreme Court has an outstanding reputation nationally," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in a statement. "I have received multiple compliments about the Judicial College programs and our staff from my colleagues when attending national meetings."

"I am honored to win this award and will accept it on behalf of all the other dedicated personnel working behind the scenes at courts to help improve services to their communities," Mr. Steele said.

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Friday announced that 29 rape crisis centers across the state will receive more than \$1.4 million in grant funding.

"We owe it to survivors of sexual assault to make sure they receive comprehensive support after an attack," AG DeWine said. "These funds will go toward helping agencies across the state to provide quality, compassionate care to those who need it."

The following 28 agencies will all receive \$45,803:

- Abuse and Rape Crisis Center of Warren County
- Alive, Inc., Steubenville
- Appleseed Community Mental Health Center, Ashland
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Stark County
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Tuscarawas County
- Compass Family and Community Services, Youngstown
- Council on Domestic Violence/Open Arms, Findlay
- Crime Victim Services, Lima
- Edna Brooks Foundation/My Sister's Place, Athens
- Erie County Prosecutor
- Eve, Inc., Marietta
- Haven of Hope, Cambridge
- Helpline of Delaware and Morrow Counties
- Highland County Domestic Violence Task Force
- Lake County Prosecutor
- New Directions, Mt. Vernon
- OneEighty, Wayne County

- Project Woman, Springfield
- Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties
- Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio
- The Cocoon, Bowling Green
- The Domestic Violence Shelter, Mansfield
- The Nord Center, Lorain
- Townhall II, Kent
- Tri-County Help Center, St. Clairsville
- Women Helping Women, Cincinnati
- YWCA of Northwest Ohio, Toledo

Another \$142,500 will be distributed to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

BWC: As the Bureau of Workers' Compensation transitions to prospective billing, it is asking private employers to report their actual payroll for the policy year ended June 30 and to reconcile any differences in premium paid prior to the closure of the "True-up" window on Aug. 15.

Employers will be removed from their current rating plan or discount program if it BWC does not receive a payroll true-up by the due date. Outstanding payroll true-ups will render the employer ineligible for participation in future rating plans or discount programs until all outstanding payroll true-ups are complete.

"This step is an important part of BWC's ongoing efforts to modernize operations and provide better service to Ohio's employers," BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison said in a statement. "It's also necessary for BWC to accurately calculate an employer's premium and for employers to maintain their participation in current rating plan or discount programs."

The transition, according to BWC, has allowed it to reduce base rates and offer employers more flexible payment options and the ability to better forecast their costs.

True-ups can be completed online and if done through the web qualifies eligible employers for a 1% premium rebate, up to a \$2,000 maximum.

The payroll true-up may also be completed through the call center at 1-800-644-6292.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced 8,480 new state business filings in June. The figure represents an increase over the same period on 2015, when 8,151 entities were formed.

June was again a record setting month for business filing; 4,300 more entities have filed so far in 2016 than at the same point in 2015.

New filings increased 21.8% from 2010-2015.

Department of Natural Resources: A total of 2,192 permits have been issued for drilling on the Utica Shale as of July 9, according to data from the Division of Oil and Gas Resources.

A total of 1,756 wells have been drilled, and 1,334 wells are in production, according to the ODNR.

The department also announced that Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor attended the opening ceremonies for the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship at the Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo.

PUCO: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is remind consumers that that they may be eligible for budget billing.

The program, offered by Ohio's regulated electric and natural gas distribution companies, allows consumers to avoid spikes in billion in the summer and winter months.

General Assembly: Legislative staff and members of the Senate collected more than 33,000 pounds of canned food for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

The internal food drive also generated \$3,000 in donations, which will provide 39,500 meals to local residents.

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

Ohio's senators this week applauded the confirmation of Carole Rendon as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) recommended Ms. Rendon, a former first assistant U.S. attorney, for the post last month.

"No one is more qualified to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District than Carole Rendon," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "Now that she is confirmed she can continue her work on behalf of Ohioans."

Sen. Portman said, "Carole Rendon is a proud Ohioan, an accomplished lawyer, and a dedicated public servant. She has already served Ohio with distinction for seven years, and I'm pleased that she will continue as U.S. Attorney for Northern Ohio. I am grateful to my colleagues for making the right decision and confirming her nomination."

Border: Sen. Brown urged customs and border protection to launch an investigation into produce made using child and forced labor.

Joining with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), he wrote to CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske decrying a loophole that allows some of those products into the country if there is not a sufficient supply.

"We urge you to continue that dialogue with regular meetings between NGOs, as well as other stakeholders, and CBP, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the State Department, and the Department of Labor and a meeting in the very near term to discuss issues related to regulations. Increased communication will lead to more successful petitions and better enforcement against forced labor imports," the senators wrote.

Funding: U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) applauded several instances of new funding awarded to her district this week.

First she welcomed news of a \$700 million retooling of Toledo's Jeep North Assembly Plant.

The project, which will equip the plant for production of the next generation of Jeep Wrangler, was announced this week by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and promises 700 new jobs.

"This is almost beyond belief, given where we were eight short years ago," Rep. Kaptur said. "For seventy-five years Toledans have manufactured Wranglers. FCA's investment today will ensure this legacy remains for years to come."

The Cleveland Hopkins International Airport will also receive \$22.1 million in federal funds for improvements including safety upgrades and new snow removal equipment.

Lastly, Rep. Kaptur announced the award of a \$3.1 million grant to the Lorain Fire Department and the city of Lorain aimed at addressing a staffing crisis.

The funds, from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program, aim to fix the fallout of the recent layoffs of 22 members of the city's fire department.

"This is obviously great news," Rep. Kaptur said. "Credit should go to the Lorain firefighters, who have actively organized in recent weeks and made their case effectively and persuasively, and to Lorain Mayor Chase Ritenauer and Lorain Fire Chief Tom Brown. Their diligence in helping to find a solution brought about this two-year solution to an immediate problem."

Zika: U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs and colleagues urged President Barack Obama to expand protections against the Zika virus. The Obama Administration has opposed a resolution that would permit mosquito control programs to implement control plans without duplicative permits, Rep. Gibbs said.

"I want to know why it is acceptable for Puerto Rico to increase their defense against Zika, but not the rest of the United States?" Rep. Gibbs asked in a statement. "All Americans should be protected against the spread of Zika and I encourage the president to change his mind and allow the increased use of live-saving pesticides and give pregnant women safety from this terrible illness. If the President ends his opposition to the Conference report, Congress can take swift action to protect those most vulnerable to Zika."

An amendment on Zika from U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles), meanwhile, failed with a 20-29 committee vote. It would have stricken a funding cap of \$461 million on bilateral family planning and created a funding floor of \$585 million to administer anti-Zika programs.

"I am deeply disappointed that House Republicans rejected this amendment and have decided to turn their back on thousands of men and women struggling through this crisis," Rep. Ryan said.

Abortions: Rep. Gibbs applauded the House passage of legislation aimed at protecting health care professionals who refuse to participate in providing abortions.

The lawmaker supported the bill, saying it protects the religious freedom of those professionals.

"The House's vote today gives those willing to exercise their beliefs the option of using the court system if their employment is in jeopardy, instead of being at the mercy of a government bureaucracy," he said. "It is critical that we not only protect the unborn, but protect those whose livelihoods may be at stake for providing that protection."

Trade: An amendment from Rep. Ryan that would require an impact analysis on free trade agreements on wages and the demand for educator workers passed a House committee this week by voice vote.

The amendment is to a measure that would require the Bureau of Labor Statistics to submit a report on the impact of such agreements on the American workforce.

"All that you need to do is look at the shuttered factories and shattered communities across Ohio to see the devastating affect free trade agreements have had across our country," he said. "I am proud that my amendment passed and we will soon be able to know the true cost of these deals to our nation," Mr. Ryan said.

Israel: Sen. Portman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) released a bipartisan report from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations examining government grants to OneVoice, which is a non-governmental organization in Israel and Palestine.

The report examines the nearly \$350,000 in grants received from the State Department to foster peace between the two counties. The report determined the NGO complied with the department's terms but shortly after the terms expired used the funds to support a political campaign.

"The State Department ignored warnings signs and funded a politically active group in a politically sensitive environment with inadequate safeguards," Sen. Portman said. "It is completely unacceptable that U.S. taxpayer dollars were used to build a political campaign infrastructure that was deployed - immediately after the grant ended - against the leader of our closest ally in the Middle East. American resources should be used to help our allies in the region, not undermine them."

SNAP: Rep. Ryan this week sought to push for increased digital access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"If we continue on our current trajectory, we will have an adult obesity rate of 60% within 15 years," he said. "In a country, where 23.5 million people live in food deserts, we cannot allow the status quo to continue and must find new ways for all Americans to have access to fresh, healthy food."

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Gongwer News Service's planned coverage of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland next week will include regular updates to the website during the day.

Significant breaking news will be distributed through email alerts but subscribers can check the website throughout each day of the convention for updates focusing on activities of the Ohio delegation and other events.

Subscribers may also follow reporter Mikel Livingston and Gongwer on Twitter for links to those updates on our website. Mike's account is @mikellivingston and the main account is @gongwer.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-023, Requested by Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney Gregg Marx.
SYLLABUS:

1. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by Violet Township may provide medical services in nonemergency situations pursuant to R.C. 4765.361, so long as the medical services are performed under the direction of the emergency medical technician's medical director or cooperating physician advisory

board, are within the scope of practice of the emergency medical technician, and do not conflict with the emergency medical services described in R.C. 4765.37, R.C. 4765.38, R.C. 4765.39, and the rules adopted by the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services.

2. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township is immune from civil liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property resulting from the provision of medical services in a nonemergency situation unless the services are provided in a manner that constitutes wanton or willful misconduct, the services are manifestly outside the scope of the emergency medical technician's employment, or the services are performed with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner.

3. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township may not provide medical services on a routine, day-to-day basis outside the boundaries of the township when revenue from a township tax levy pays the emergency medical technician's compensation, unless the township has entered into a contract with another political subdivision pursuant to R.C. 9.60 or R.C. 505.44, or the township provides the medical services to the territory of another township or municipal corporation as a member of a joint fire district pursuant to R.C. 505.371, a fire and ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.375, or a joint ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.71.

4. A board of township trustees may establish reasonable charges for the use of medical services that are provided by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township in nonemergency situations and may collect those charges from a private hospital system that agrees to pay those charges on behalf of the recipient of the medical services.

5. A board of township trustees may contract with a private hospital system to provide medical services in nonemergency situations by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township to patients of the hospital who are residents and nonresidents of the township, so long as the private hospital system is a nonprofit corporation and the medical services are performed within the territory of the township.

6. A contract between the Violet Township Board of Trustees and a private hospital system for the provision of medical services in nonemergency situations may provide that the private hospital system will pay the township a sum of money for each visit performed by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic pursuant to the contract and that emergency medical technicians will provide medical services in nonemergency situations during the emergency medical technicians' regular work hours.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, July 20

Rail Development Commission, 1980 West Broad Street, Rm. GA, Columbus, 11 a.m.

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 3 p.m. (Dropout Prevention and Recovery Study Committee)

Thursday, July 21

Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)

Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27

Beginning of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, August 7

End of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, October 2

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$50 per Family | \$25 per Person to Peterson for Good Government)

Thursday, October 20

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1000 Event Sponsor, includes up to 6 participants; \$500 Lane Sponsor, includes up to 4 participants; \$150 per couple | \$100 per person | \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 16-Monday, July 18

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention luncheon, Westin, 21 E. Fifth St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Featuring U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee)
Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.
Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention dinner gala, Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., (Featuring Vernon Jordan)

Monday, July 18

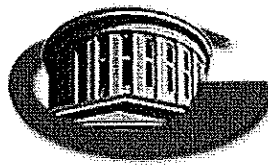
Republican National Convention, Cleveland

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Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 5:45 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, July 15, 2016
Attachments: Jul15.htm; 160715dayplan.htm



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Ohio Report for Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In = 2Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

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Volume #85, Report #136 -- Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

A Senate leader said lawmakers may not act on the soon-to-end freeze on renewable energy and energy efficiency standards until sometime next year.

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina), the Senate's president pro tem and likely next chamber leader, said in an interview this week he advocates for an "all the above approach" to rethinking the mandates that were frozen in 2014 and are set to kick back in at the end of this year without legislative action.

But such an undertaking might not be easier considering the limited number of session days scheduled this fall, he said. The Senate is scheduled to return in late September with at most 21 days set for work in committees, and much fewer days anticipated for full sessions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2016) The House, meanwhile, is set to reconvene after the November election with at most eight full session days.

"I think that's a pretty big issue and if there's not that many session days it remains to be seen whether that'll be tackled in that amount of time," Sen. Obhof said. "I definitely think moving forward whether it's at the end of this year or at the beginning of the next General Assembly we need to come up with a comprehensive and consistent policy on energy."

By not acting by Dec. 31, the freeze would thaw, allowing the standards to kick back into effect, which Republicans argue could harm Ohio considering lingering uncertainty over the federal Clean Power Plan and other unknowns. Proponents of the standards say any effort to extend the freeze or lower the standards would take the state backward.

There are currently three bills pending in either chamber with different approaches. A bill from Sen. Bill Seitz (SB 320) would extend the freeze until 2019, while a bill from Rep. Ron Amstutz (HB 554) would extend the freeze indefinitely. A third bill (SB 325), from Sen. Kris Jordan, would abolish the mandates completely. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 11, 2016)

If none of those bills pass by the end of the 131st General Assembly, the legislative slate will be wiped clean and a new bill would need to be authored to tackle the issue next year.

Sen. Obhof said that even if lawmakers act on the freeze, he believes more comprehensive action would be needed in the next General Assembly.

"I think there will be some kind of action in the next 12 to 18 months regardless of whether the freeze is extended or not," Sen. Obhof said. "I don't know if there is any

science supporting the current numbers and mandates in law. I think we need to have a fact-based approach, one that has room for all the natural resources available."

The pending end of the freeze is one of the reasons cited by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) as a reason for more Republican scrutiny of Gov. John Kasich's recent appointee to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Democratic attorney Howard Petricoff on Tuesday faced his first hearing before the Sen. Seitz's Senate Public Utilities Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 12, 2016)

"I believe we're at a unique crossroads caused by a fairly simultaneous convergence of numerous complex issues," Sen. Seitz said. "I think we all need to make an effort to understand each other on these issues and of course no one is more central to that vortex than the five members of the PUCO."

Other uncertainties he cited include ongoing rehearings of proposed Power Purchase Agreements from AEP and FirstEnergy, the departure of former PUCO Chairman Andre Porter, and the ongoing federal court case over the legality of the Clean Power Plan.

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

In one of the first significant rhetorical volleys in this legislative campaign cycle, the rising controversy over funding and student attendance at the state's largest online charter school is a point of contention in the race for the open 16th Senate District.

Democrat Cathy Johnson, a teacher looking to upset favored Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) in the right-leaning western Franklin County seat, fired the initial salvo this week in criticizing the Republican over issues related to the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

Her criticisms were dismissed by Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee, who described the Democrat's statements as "misguided to say the least" and defended the Republican's positions on and support for education.

The race for the seat being vacated by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) is one of only a handful in the Senate this year that's expected to be even marginally competitive thanks to the GOP-led reapportionment process. It has trended Republican for several years, but Democrats are hoping that with a polarizing candidate atop the GOP ticket they can make hay in legislative races this fall.

ECOT is currently locked in a legal battle with the Ohio Department of Education over attendance records, with a looming audit having the potential to strip millions of funding from the online charter founded by Bill Lager. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 11, 2016)

Ms. Johnson in a campaign release "announced her support" for ODE's attempts to examine ECOT's records and said Rep. Kunze voted "against measures to hold e-

schools accountable in 2015" and "has accepted \$33,000 from ECOT's founder, Bill Lager, over the past four years."

"As a mother, teacher and taxpayer, I am astonished by the deceptive tactics of this taxpayer-funded e-school," Ms. Johnson said. "It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance."

The Democrat said Ms. Kunze "voted with Republicans to block amendments that would have required annual audits for charter school operators, clarified that records of all charter school operators are public records and given the public more access to information on charter school board members and meeting times."

"It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance," Ms. Johnson added. "Instead, she chose to accept donations from ECOT's founder. We need a State Senator who is dedicated to fighting for students and families. Anyone can say yes to special interests with deep pockets."

Sen. Burke questioned the focus of Ms. Johnson's assertions, saying Rep. Kunze has a record that belies such criticisms.

"Stephanie Kunze has a record of supporting both public education and parent choice," he said. "I would also say that both traditional public education and charter schools and ECOT schools, etc. are all in need of improvement beyond a shadow of a doubt and that is what we're working on."

To that end, Sen. Burke said, Ms. Kunze was a cosponsor of HB 2, which he described as "the largest reform bill dealing with non-traditional public schools." As the legislature continues to look for improvements to all kinds of public schools, he added, "she is obviously supportive of that."

"I would say, unlike Ms. Johnson's statement, that rather than have a singular source of education, that Stephanie believes parents should have a choice. The competition within that market drives improvement, so in order for public schools to get better, parents should have a choice."

The Republican said some of the tabled budget amendments the Democrat is apparently referring to "would have basically eliminated parent choice."

Sen. Burke also pushed back on the suggestion of a quid pro quo involving campaign donations.

"I imagine Stephanie Kunze, like me, accepts money from a lot of people," he said. "I've taken money from Bill Lager. I also was a direct cosponsor of (Sen. Peggy Lehner's) bill to reform ECOT and charter schools from day one."

"I guess the inverse question there would be, 'If the (Ohio Education Association) paid money to Stephanie Kunze, do you think she'd change?' I'm guessing probably not."

The debate over ECOT escalated considerably in recent weeks as ODE moved forward with plans to review the schools attendance records. In the latest twist, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported Thursday that ECOT is refusing to release some of the requested data.

As election season progresses, Democrats have increasingly pointed to the majority GOP's ties to ECOT, which has been at the forefront of the Republican-led expansion of the charter industry in the state.

Carrying forward the support of his predecessor, Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) spoke at this year's ECOT graduation ceremony, which in the past has been attended by other prominent Republican officeholders.

The Ohio Democratic Party recently called for a moratorium on state funding to ECOT and a larger investigation into the state's charter school system, stating: "Last year as the Ohio General Assembly considered a bill to reform charter schools, Lager gave nearly \$150,000 to 21 Ohio Republican legislators over the course of two months."

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Donald Trump on Friday became the first presumptive nominee to announce his vice presidential pick via Twitter.

As expected, Mr. Trump confirmed he has tabbed Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate in a tweet shortly before 11 a.m.

Mr. Trump had previously announced he was postponing the New York City press conference where he was expected to make the announcement following a mass killing in Nice, France.

But Gov. Pence faced a noon deadline Friday by which to withdraw from his gubernatorial reelection bid in order for the Indiana Republican Party to name a replacement candidate, meaning the news would have been confirmed then even without an announcement from the Trump campaign.

The formal news conference will now take place at 11 a.m. Saturday in New Jersey.

Word broke Thursday that the first term Indiana governor and former congressman was to be Mr. Trump's No. 2.

Gov. Pence has been engaged in a gubernatorial rematch with Democrat John Gregg - a race that's taken on a new element of competitiveness following Republican discontent over Mr. Pence's handling of last year's so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Mr. Pence, well thought of in religious conservative circles, is seen as an attempt by Mr. Trump to appeal to that voter bloc and to create inroads with Congress, where Gov. Pence served from 2001-2013.

The campaign of DNC presumptive nominee Hillary Clinton immediately blasted the pick in a statement, calling it the "most extreme VP pick in a generation."

Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta criticized the governor for defunding Planned Parenthood, advocating early on for the Tea Party movement, and signing a religious freedom law that opponents say legalized discrimination against LGBT citizens.

"By picking Mike Pence as his running mate, Donald Trump has doubled down on some of his most disturbing beliefs by choosing an incredibly divisive and unpopular running mate known for supporting discriminatory politics and failed economic policies that favor millionaires and corporations over working families," Mr. Podesta said.

The campaign then promptly organized a media call featuring allied groups criticizing the Republican ticket.

Rules Committee: GOP leaders and Trump loyalists thwarted plans to undermine Mr. Trump's candidacy during a closely watched RNC Rules Committee meeting Thursday.

The morning meeting was delayed several hours while party leaders attempted to negotiate with members of the "Never Trump" movement, but talks soon fell apart. Those members had hoped to change rules to permit delegates to vote their conscience, thereby freeing bound delegates to vote against Mr. Trump on the first ballot.

But as the day wore on it became clear the anti-Trump contingent had too little support for success and lacked the required votes to create a minority report that would have ensured debate on the issue before the full convention next week. Amendment author Kendal Unruh said she would still attempt to earn the required 28 signatures for a minority report.

Following much debate, delegates also shot down a proposed amendment that would have barred lobbyists from being members of the RNC - a change Ohio delegate and lobbyist JoAnn Davidson strongly criticized in remarks before the body.

The committee, which had planned to meet Friday, eventually finished the agenda late Thursday and adjourned. The rules package will be sent to the full convention Monday for consideration.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said the meeting "made clear the high level of unity within our Party."

"Grassroots voices from every state and territory have crafted a set of rules which will keep our party strong at the local, state, and national level, and we honored the spirit of democracy by conducting our Rules Committee meeting in a completely open and transparent fashion," he said.

Schedule: The RNC had not yet released an official schedule of events for convention week in Cleveland as of midday Friday, just two days before the RNC is schedule to kickoff.

But Ohio leaders and others have already announced a slew of ancillary events timed to capitalize on the convention crowd.

The Ohio Republican Party will host daily 8 a.m. breakfasts featuring Treasurer Josh Mandel and U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton (Monday); U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson and Frank Luntz (Tuesday); U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi and House Speaker Paul Ryan (Wednesday); and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (Thursday).

The ORP already announced a 3:30 p.m. Tuesday event at the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame to honor Gov. John Kasich.

A sampling of other events during the course of the week includes:

- Sunday - a "Taste of Little Italy" event featuring Attorney General Mike DeWine at 3 p.m. at Tony Brush Park
- Monday - a 3 p.m. campaign event in which Sen. Rob Portman, former Speaker Newt Gingrich and Sen. Joni Ernst will address Sen. Portman volunteers at the Tri-C Metropolitan Campus
- Tuesday, a 10:15 a.m. reception for media members with Sen. Rob Portman; and 11 a.m. welcome tea hosted by the Ohio Federation of Republican Women at the Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square featuring U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)

A partial list of convention speakers was officially released Thursday, although the time and dates of the speeches have yet to be announced by the RNC.

In contrast, the Democratic National Convention Committee announced Friday the headline speakers for the DNC in Philadelphia later this month. They include First Lady Michelle Obama and Sen. Bernie Sanders July 25, President Bill Clinton July 26, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden July 27, and Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton July 28.

A series of musical acts will perform each day of the RNC at Freedom Plaza, which will also include drinks and food. For a complete list, visit the RNC's website. An evening

concert, featuring a variety of "American Idol" and "The Voice" winners will take place at 11 p.m. Tuesday at Gray's Armory.

The Clinton campaign and the DNC, meanwhile, are organizing their own counter events in Cleveland with a slew of press conferences and conference calls aimed at undercutting the RNC. Former Gov. Ted Strickland and the Ohio Democratic Party will also ramp up their attacks on U.S. Sen. Rob Portman as they seek to link him to Mr. Trump.

Other groups have scheduled their own events to criticize Republicans. The Ohio AFL-CIO is set to "welcome" Republicans to the city during a 2 p.m. Sunday event featuring former Gov. Ted Strickland at the Laborers' Local 310 Hall.

ProgressOhio has created a calendar of counter events that includes a "Daily Show" convention sideshow, League of Women Voters voter registration drives, and daily nonviolence training for protestors.

Bob Bennett: The City of Cleveland granted a secondary street name to the intersection of Ontario Street and Huron Road for the duration of the convention. The intersection will be known as Bob Bennett Way in honor of former ORP chairman.

"More than any one person, Bob Bennett steadfastly sought to bring the Convention to Cleveland," Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges said. "We are sad that he is not here to see the world spotlight on Cleveland, but grateful to the Mayor's office for honoring him in this way so that we can acknowledge his contribution to this week."

Tourism: With the RNC expected to draw 50,000 people to Cleveland, TourismOhio is rolling out all the stops to showcase Ohio, according to a press release.

The group is launching a 360 degree "virtual reality experience" during the convention, to capitalize on visitors and showcase various Ohio hotspots.

The experience will be hosted in a 40-passenger bus located outside the Quicken Loans Arena, according to the release, and will "offer a personal Ohio adventure for participants with a wide range of interests." Those not at the event can take part online.

Some of the featured items include Cedar Point, Hocking Hills, parasailing over Lake Erie, and various Cleveland attractions.

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Students largely believe that their colleges and universities would seriously address sexual assault reports and take corrective action against offenders, according to their responses on surveys disseminated by all of the state's public institutions.

The surveys were an integral piece of the Changing Campus Culture initiative, which the Department of Higher Education launched last fall in an effort to encourage best practices in preventing and responding to sexual violence on campuses. (Survey Results)

Chancellor John Carey urged schools to join the voluntary effort and they responded. All of Ohio's public universities and 80% of private institutions participated in the campus climate survey that asked students to give feedback on how they think sexual assault is being handled and whether they know how to file reports.

Michelle Johnston, the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College president who has been the face of the initiative, said she's encouraged by the swell of interest in improving sexual violence policies.

The feedback, she said, will be used to steer the other facets of the \$2-million initiative, which include developing comprehensive response policies, adopting survivor-centered responses, launching awareness campaigns and implementing comprehensive training programs.

"With 100% of our public colleges and universities completing a common survey of our students, we have a clearer picture of where we are, collectively and as unique institutions," she said in a statement. "Using this data, we will thoroughly analyze where we are now and will chart a course for where we want to be, in relation to positive and safe environments on our campuses."

Students who responded to the survey agreed, on average, that the university would take sexual assault reports seriously and would support those making the reports. The average respondent also said the university would take corrective action against offenders and would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.

However, students largely disagreed or were neutral with a survey statement that sexual violence is not a problem on their campuses and responses were mixed on a question of understanding institution policies for addressing complaints.

Less than one-third of students reported they don't know the contact information to get on-campus support for sexual violence despite about 13% of them saying they knew women who had been assaulted on campus.

"As I have shared many times before, numbers don't lie, and in the case of sexual violence on our campuses in Ohio, the numbers tell a story that needs a better ending," Ms. Johnston said of why the initiative was launched in October.

In addition to the aggregate data compiled by ODHE, the agency said campuses also administered more comprehensive surveys that will inform policies specific to individual institutions. All public institutions and 88% of private colleges and universities completed those surveys.

Ohio is one of few states in the country that has collected such data, according to ODHE. Much of the work to complete the surveys was done with the help of grants that were funded with a portion of the \$2 million allocated to the initiative in the biennium budget (HB 64).

The grants are also to be used to support putting best practices in place. The overall budget funding has paid for, among other things, webinars and summits to keep institutions engaged in the initiative and collaborating with one another.

"It's exciting to see Ohio dedicating state resources to collect prevalence data, support survivors and prevent sexual violence on college campuses, and partnering with the coalition and rape crisis centers," said Monika Johnson Hostler, the president of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

"It is through this strategic, long-term investment and the development of partnerships between campuses and community-based programs that we will see long-term positive change for students."

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

The sponsor of public sector right-to-work legislation defends introducing the controversial measure while acknowledging it is likely dead-on-arrival.

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) said legislation (HB 583) that would remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization is good policy that will likely not be well-received in the General Assembly.

"It's something my constituents have been demanding for a long time," he said in an interview. "I think it's good for Ohio and hopefully it will be able to move forward."

But We Are Ohio, which was formed in opposition to similar legislation designed to curtail the collective bargaining power of public sector unions, slammed the proposal, saying that workers in state with similar laws make less money and are more prone to on-the-job injuries.

"We believe right-to-work is wrong for Ohio, for working people, for all of us," spokesman Dennis Willard said in an interview.

"There is no support from working people in this state for this extreme idea."

Asked about the likelihood of the bill becoming law, Rep. Becker said he has "no reason to be optimistic."

"I have no feedback one way or the other, but based on the public comments that the governor has made and based on my feelings of what's going on in the Senate or where they might be, I'm not optimistic," he said.

Gov. John Kasich has said repeatedly that right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda in the wake of the public rebuke over similar legislation (SB5, 129th General Assembly) that was struck down by the state's voters in a labor-backed referendum.

John Fourtney, spokesman for the Senate Majority Caucus, said the measure has yet to be vetted by members. However, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has spoken favorably of eliminating a requirement for union shop employees to pay union dues (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 4, 2013), but has said the support is not there among his members. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 3, 2013)

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), also said the bill will be discussed further among caucus members in the fall.

The fight over Senate Bill 5 galvanized the labor movement, and Rep. Becker acknowledged that the introduction of similar legislation could provide good political fodder for Democrats in an election year.

"I could see that being a drawback. It just gives the Democrats another talking point and a fundraising letter to send out," he said.

However, he said his measure is different from Senate Bill 5 in that it does not address collective bargaining benefits.

"It is simply an opt-out for public sector employees," he said.

Democrats and labor groups have derided right-to-work legislation for allowing those who opt out of paying union dues to still receive the benefits from negotiated terms of contracts. But Rep. Becker said those who opt-out under his legislation would no longer be protected by unions.

"If they run into some kind of trouble with management, they will not be able to look to the union," he said, adding that it is up to management to decide how to deal with the wages and benefits of non-union employees.

Critics have also said that right-to-work legislation is designed to weaken unions both financially and politically. Rep. Becker, however, also downplayed that critique.

"I wouldn't expect a mass exodus from unions if this were to be signed into law," he said. "If there were a significant exit, it would tell me that there's a problem with the unions. If the only way they can maintain their union through a captive audience then they need to be looking in the mirror."

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

A spokesman for the state's largest online charter school is defending the school's refusal to hand over student log-in data requested by the Department of Education.

Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow is not breaking any laws by refusing the data that's at the center of a lawsuit alleging ODE will misuse that information to determine per-pupil funding, school spokesman Neil Clark said.

A Franklin County judge earlier this week denied ECOT's request for a temporary restraining order to stop ODE from moving forward with an audit until after the court rules how student attendance should be used to inform payment totals.

ODE on Monday moved forward with the attendance review, but an email from the agency's attorney to ECOT revealed that the school was refusing to turn over the log-in and log-out information for students.

The agency's attorney Douglas Cole requested access to the documents be immediately provided, but Mr. Clark said that won't be happening.

"We're saying we're not doing anything unless the court tells us to," he said in an interview.

ECOT is interpreting the judge's decision differently than ODE, he said. While it may have allowed the audit to move forward, there is no specification that the review can occur in a way that conflicts with a contract between the school and ODE

The school's lawsuit argues that ODE's decision to not provide funding for students who weren't logging in at least five hours per day is out of line with an agreement that has been in place for previous audits. That contractual agreement states that the school must offer up to 920 hours of learning opportunities - not that students must partake, Mr. Clark said.

"It's just not about did you show up today, it's far more detailed than that; it's how did you get to that 920?" he said.

ODE, meanwhile, is contending that online schools are required by state law to make daily student participation records accessible, regardless of how that information is being used. Mr. Evans said in his email a statute specifying that mandate has been in place since February.

The e-school's governing board was expected to meet Friday - mostly in executive session - to discuss the lawsuit and next steps.

Accreditation: Antioch College this week announced it has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

The independent college had spent the last two years pursuing accreditation after reopening in 2011. Originally founded in 1850, it closed in 2008 amid financial troubles and leaders have since been focused on building the historic institution back up.

President Tom Manley said in a video posted to YouTube that the university can now focus its attention on continuing to build a financial foundation and recruit students.

"This great result comes from the hard work of our faculty, our staff, students, our alumni who have been so incredibly supportive and the leadership of our board of trustees," he said. "It is a ringing endorsement of the quality and strength of the education that Antioch college can now offer, and it is a vote of confidence in our ability to offer that education for years to come. "

The commission's decision is retroactive, meaning the recent graduates in the class of 2016 will receive diplomas from an accredited institution, Antioch reported.

Standards Revisions: Rep. Jack Cera is urging educators and the public to provide feedback on proposed revisions to English and math standards.

The Bellaire Democrat said his constituents have shared frustration with the current common core standards, known as Ohio's Learning Standards, and now is the time to recommend changes.

Through 5 p.m. Aug. 1, ODE is accepting public comments on the proposed revisions that were drafted in response to the work of a task force and an earlier public survey.

"I wanted to take the time to share this opportunity with the people of the 96th District because I have received many questions from teachers, parents and administrators about the education department's new revisions," he said. "This is a perfect opportunity for parents to get involved in the process and voice their questions, comments and concerns with those who create these standards directly."

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In 'Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

The Ohio Democratic Party has thrown its weight behind an effort to ensure that unregistered voters have a small window prior to the presidential election to register and cast a ballot on the same day.

In a brief filed with U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals, the party asks the court to uphold a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act.

"Jon Husted and Mike DeWine continue to waste time and money in court, ignoring the Constitution and clear precedent while attempting to make it harder to vote," Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said in a statement.

"In their appeal, Husted and DeWine blatantly disregard the fact that eliminating an additional week of early voting and same-day registration disproportionately impacted African-American voters. The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

In his ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

In a separate decision, Judge Watson denied a request to stay the ruling for the November presidential election while the decision is appealed.

ODP is now accusing Secretary of State Jon Husted of failing to heed the ruling by not providing accurate information for voters about the start of early voting on his office's website.

"Jon Husted has a long history of blatantly ignoring court decisions that have rebuked his attacks on Ohioans' voting rights, and his refusal, once again, to provide accurate information about early voting is plainly designed to mislead Ohioans about their voting rights," Mr. Pepper said.

"If he won't relent and update the misleading information his office is providing, we will take action to ensure he follows the court order restoring 'Golden Week.' The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

Husted spokesman Josh Eck said the website won't be changed while the case is under appeal.

"The ruling was stayed for the upcoming August Special Election and is currently on appeal ahead of the November election. It would be irresponsible for the Secretary to begin advertising changes that may very well have to undergo further changes before the General Election, as they did in 2012," he said.

"Secretary Husted is committed to making sure all voters know the rules and can participate and we welcome others to join us in pursuing clarity over chaos."

Eminent Domain: The 1851 Center for Constitutional Law has asked the Wood County Common Pleas Court to dismiss more than a dozen eminent domain cases filed by a Texas pipeline company.

The group said in a court filing that Kinder Morgan's eminent domain action against 15 families in the Bowling Green area violates Ohio's constitution because the project for which it is seeking the land is not a "public necessity."

The land would be used for the "Utopia Pipeline," a private ethane pipeline running underground to a Canadian plastics factory.

"Imagine that a private sector lawyer desired to get to the Wood County Court of Common Pleas faster. Could he forcibly appropriate others' private land along the route, from his front door step to the court's parking lot to build a personal road, with no on-ramps or exits, and twenty foot walls on either side, just to represent one very wealthy client who anticipated routinely using his services?" the filing reads.

"If the answer is 'no,' then it must be here as well. And it is 'no,' because no such road would be a public use, even if the lawyer appealed to the public interest in 'justice' and 'market demand for lawyers.'"

Maurice Thompson, the group's executive director, said in a statement the proposed eminent domain action is "redistribution of wealth of the worst sort."

"The abuse along the Utopia Pipeline is a prime example of what can happen when legislators attempt to auction off Ohioans' property rights to the highest bidder," he said. "Ultimately, the Ohio Constitution prevents this abuse, and we will prevail in court. But statutes inviting this sort of behavior should be amended or repealed."

Honor: A long-time employee of the Ohio Judicial College has been nationally recognized for his work, the high court reported.

Kristopher Steele, an education program manager, received the 2016 Perkins Award from the National Association for Court Management

"It's because of employees like Kristopher that the Supreme Court has an outstanding reputation nationally," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in a statement. "I have received multiple compliments about the Judicial College programs and our staff from my colleagues when attending national meetings."

"I am honored to win this award and will accept it on behalf of all the other dedicated personnel working behind the scenes at courts to help improve services to their communities," Mr. Steele said.

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Friday announced that 29 rape crisis centers across the state will receive more than \$1.4 million in grant funding.

"We owe it to survivors of sexual assault to make sure they receive comprehensive support after an attack," AG DeWine said. "These funds will go toward helping agencies across the state to provide quality, compassionate care to those who need it."

The following 28 agencies will all receive \$45,803:

- Abuse and Rape Crisis Center of Warren County
- Alive, Inc., Steubenville
- Appleseed Community Mental Health Center, Ashland
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Stark County
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Tuscarawas County
- Compass Family and Community Services, Youngstown
- Council on Domestic Violence/Open Arms, Findlay
- Crime Victim Services, Lima
- Edna Brooks Foundation/My Sister's Place, Athens
- Erie County Prosecutor
- Eve, Inc., Marietta
- Haven of Hope, Cambridge
- Helpline of Delaware and Morrow Counties
- Highland County Domestic Violence Task Force
- Lake County Prosecutor
- New Directions, Mt. Vernon
- OneEighty, Wayne County

- Project Woman, Springfield
- Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties
- Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio
- The Cocoon, Bowling Green
- The Domestic Violence Shelter, Mansfield
- The Nord Center, Lorain
- Townhall II, Kent
- Tri-County Help Center, St. Clairsville
- Women Helping Women, Cincinnati
- YWCA of Northwest Ohio, Toledo

Another \$142,500 will be distributed to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

BWC: As the Bureau of Workers' Compensation transitions to prospective billing, it is asking private employers to report their actual payroll for the policy year ended June 30 and to reconcile any differences in premium paid prior to the closure of the "True-up" window on Aug. 15.

Employers will be removed from their current rating plan or discount program if it BWC does not receive a payroll true-up by the due date. Outstanding payroll true-ups will render the employer ineligible for participation in future rating plans or discount programs until all outstanding payroll true-ups are complete.

"This step is an important part of BWC's ongoing efforts to modernize operations and provide better service to Ohio's employers," BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison said in a statement. "It's also necessary for BWC to accurately calculate an employer's premium and for employers to maintain their participation in current rating plan or discount programs."

The transition, according to BWC, has allowed it to reduce base rates and offer employers more flexible payment options and the ability to better forecast their costs.

True-ups can be completed online and if done through the web qualifies eligible employers for a 1% premium rebate, up to a \$2,000 maximum.

The payroll true-up may also be completed through the call center at 1-800-644-6292.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced 8,480 new state business filings in June. The figure represents an increase over the same period on 2015, when 8,151 entities were formed.

June was again a record setting month for business filing; 4,300 more entities have filed so far in 2016 than at the same point in 2015.

New filings increased 21.8% from 2010-2015.

Department of Natural Resources: A total of 2,192 permits have been issued for drilling on the Utica Shale as of July 9, according to data from the Division of Oil and Gas Resources.

A total of 1,756 wells have been drilled, and 1,334 wells are in production, according to the ODNR.

The department also announced that Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor attended the opening ceremonies for the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship at the Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo.

PUCO: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is remind consumers that that they may be eligible for budget billing.

The program, offered by Ohio's regulated electric and natural gas distribution companies, allows consumers to avoid spikes in billions in the summer and winter months.

General Assembly: Legislative staff and members of the Senate collected more than 33,000 pounds of canned food for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

The internal food drive also generated \$3,000 in donations, which will provide 39,500 meals to local residents.

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

Ohio's senators this week applauded the confirmation of Carole Rendon as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) recommended Ms. Rendon, a former first assistant U.S. attorney, for the post last month.

"No one is more qualified to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District than Carole Rendon," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "Now that she is confirmed she can continue her work on behalf of Ohioans."

Sen. Portman said, "Carole Rendon is a proud Ohioan, an accomplished lawyer, and a dedicated public servant. She has already served Ohio with distinction for seven years, and I'm pleased that she will continue as U.S. Attorney for Northern Ohio. I am grateful to my colleagues for making the right decision and confirming her nomination."

Border: Sen. Brown urged customs and border protection to launch an investigation into produce made using child and forced labor.

Joining with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), he wrote to CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske decrying a loophole that allows some of those products into the country if there is not a sufficient supply.

"We urge you to continue that dialogue with regular meetings between NGOs, as well as other stakeholders, and CBP, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the State Department, and the Department of Labor and a meeting in the very near term to discuss issues related to regulations. Increased communication will lead to more successful petitions and better enforcement against forced labor imports," the senators wrote.

Funding: U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) applauded several instances of new funding awarded to her district this week.

First she welcomed news of a \$700 million retooling of Toledo's Jeep North Assembly Plant.

The project, which will equip the plant for production of the next generation of Jeep Wrangler, was announced this week by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and promises 700 new jobs.

"This is almost beyond belief, given where we were eight short years ago," Rep. Kaptur said. "For seventy-five years Toledans have manufactured Wranglers. FCA's investment today will ensure this legacy remains for years to come."

The Cleveland Hopkins International Airport will also receive \$22.1 million in federal funds for improvements including safety upgrades and new snow removal equipment.

Lastly, Rep. Kaptur announced the award of a \$3.1 million grant to the Lorain Fire Department and the city of Lorain aimed at addressing a staffing crisis.

The funds, from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program, aim to fix the fallout of the recent layoffs of 22 members of the city's fire department.

"This is obviously great news," Rep. Kaptur said. "Credit should go to the Lorain firefighters, who have actively organized in recent weeks and made their case effectively and persuasively, and to Lorain Mayor Chase Ritenauer and Lorain Fire Chief Tom Brown. Their diligence in helping to find a solution brought about this two-year solution to an immediate problem."

Zika: U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs and colleagues urged President Barack Obama to expand protections against the Zika virus. The Obama Administration has opposed a resolution that would permit mosquito control programs to implement control plans without duplicative permits, Rep. Gibbs said.

"I want to know why it is acceptable for Puerto Rico to increase their defense against Zika, but not the rest of the United States?" Rep. Gibbs asked in a statement. "All Americans should be protected against the spread of Zika and I encourage the president to change his mind and allow the increased use of live-saving pesticides and give pregnant women safety from this terrible illness. If the President ends his opposition to the Conference report, Congress can take swift action to protect those most vulnerable to Zika."

An amendment on Zika from U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles), meanwhile, failed with a 20-29 committee vote. It would have stricken a funding cap of \$461 million on bilateral family planning and created a funding floor of \$585 million to administer anti-Zika programs.

"I am deeply disappointed that House Republicans rejected this amendment and have decided to turn their back on thousands of men and women struggling through this crisis," Rep. Ryan said.

Abortions: Rep. Gibbs applauded the House passage of legislation aimed at protecting health care professionals who refuse to participate in providing abortions.

The lawmaker supported the bill, saying it protects the religious freedom of those professionals.

"The House's vote today gives those willing to exercise their beliefs the option of using the court system if their employment is in jeopardy, instead of being at the mercy of a government bureaucracy," he said. "It is critical that we not only protect the unborn, but protect those whose livelihoods may be at stake for providing that protection."

Trade: An amendment from Rep. Ryan that would require an impact analysis on free trade agreements on wages and the demand for educator workers passed a House committee this week by voice vote.

The amendment is to a measure that would require the Bureau of Labor Statistics to submit a report on the impact of such agreements on the American workforce.

"All that you need to do is look at the shuttered factories and shattered communities across Ohio to see the devastating affect free trade agreements have had across our country," he said. "I am proud that my amendment passed and we will soon be able to know the true cost of these deals to our nation," Mr. Ryan said.

Israel: Sen. Portman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) released a bipartisan report from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations examining government grants to OneVoice, which is a non-governmental organization in Israel and Palestine.

The report examines the nearly \$350,000 in grants received from the State Department to foster peace between the two counties. The report determined the NGO complied with the department's terms but shortly after the terms expired used the funds to support a political campaign.

"The State Department ignored warnings signs and funded a politically active group in a politically sensitive environment with inadequate safeguards," Sen. Portman said. "It is completely unacceptable that U.S. taxpayer dollars were used to build a political campaign infrastructure that was deployed - immediately after the grant ended - against the leader of our closest ally in the Middle East. American resources should be used to help our allies in the region, not undermine them."

SNAP: Rep. Ryan this week sought to push for increased digital access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"If we continue on our current trajectory, we will have an adult obesity rate of 60% within 15 years," he said. "In a country, where 23.5 million people live in food deserts, we cannot allow the status quo to continue and must find new ways for all Americans to have access to fresh, healthy food."

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Gongwer News Service's planned coverage of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland next week will include regular updates to the website during the day.

Significant breaking news will be distributed through email alerts but subscribers can check the website throughout each day of the convention for updates focusing on activities of the Ohio delegation and other events.

Subscribers may also follow reporter Mikel Livingston and Gongwer on Twitter for links to those updates on our website. Mike's account is @mikellivingston and the main account is @gongwer.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-023, Requested by Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney Gregg Marx.
SYLLABUS:

1. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by Violet Township may provide medical services in nonemergency situations pursuant to R.C. 4765.361, so long as the medical services are performed under the direction of the emergency medical technician's medical director or cooperating physician advisory

board, are within the scope of practice of the emergency medical technician, and do not conflict with the emergency medical services described in R.C. 4765.37, R.C. 4765.38, R.C. 4765.39, and the rules adopted by the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services.

2. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township is immune from civil liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property resulting from the provision of medical services in a nonemergency situation unless the services are provided in a manner that constitutes wanton or willful misconduct, the services are manifestly outside the scope of the emergency medical technician's employment, or the services are performed with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner.

3. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township may not provide medical services on a routine, day-to-day basis outside the boundaries of the township when revenue from a township tax levy pays the emergency medical technician's compensation, unless the township has entered into a contract with another political subdivision pursuant to R.C. 9.60 or R.C. 505.44, or the township provides the medical services to the territory of another township or municipal corporation as a member of a joint fire district pursuant to R.C. 505.371, a fire and ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.375, or a joint ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.71.

4. A board of township trustees may establish reasonable charges for the use of medical services that are provided by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township in nonemergency situations and may collect those charges from a private hospital system that agrees to pay those charges on behalf of the recipient of the medical services.

5. A board of township trustees may contract with a private hospital system to provide medical services in nonemergency situations by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township to patients of the hospital who are residents and nonresidents of the township, so long as the private hospital system is a nonprofit corporation and the medical services are performed within the territory of the township.

6. A contract between the Violet Township Board of Trustees and a private hospital system for the provision of medical services in nonemergency situations may provide that the private hospital system will pay the township a sum of money for each visit performed by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic pursuant to the contract and that emergency medical technicians will provide medical services in nonemergency situations during the emergency medical technicians' regular work hours.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, July 20

Rail Development Commission, 1980 West Broad Street, Rm. GA, Columbus, 11 a.m.

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 3 p.m. (Dropout Prevention and Recovery Study Committee)

Thursday, July 21

Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)

Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27

Beginning of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, August 7

End of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, October 2

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$50 per Family | \$25 per Person to Peterson for Good Government)

Thursday, October 20

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1000 Event Sponsor, includes up to 6 participants; \$500 Lane Sponsor, includes up to 4 participants; \$150 per couple | \$100 per person | \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 16-Monday, July 18

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention luncheon, Westin, 21 E. Fifth St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Featuring U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee)
Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.
Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention dinner gala, Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., (Featuring Vernon Jordan)

Monday, July 18

Republican National Convention, Cleveland

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